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## Appendix D: Writing About and Around Art: Some Models, and High-Water Marks

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### *Poetry*

*The following ekphrastic poems are available for free online through the Poetry Foundation's website:*  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

- Elizabeth Alexander -- "Early Cinema," "Robeson at Rutgers," and "The Venus Hottentot"  
John Ashbery -- "And *Ut Pictura Poesis* is Her Name" and "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror"  
Louise Bogan -- "Statue and Birds"  
Marianne Boruch -- "Little Wife"  
Jericho Brown -- "Track 1: Lush Life"  
Robert Browning -- "My Last Duchess"  
Victoria Chang -- "Edward Hopper Study: Hotel Room"  
Inger Christensen -- "Blue Poles"  
Eduardo C. Corral -- "Testament Scratched into a Water Station Barrell (Translation #11)"  
Mark Doty -- "Brian Age Seven" and "To Bessie Drennan"  
Rita Dove -- "Soprano" and "The Venus of Willendorf"  
Blas Falconer -- "Orphan"  
Lawrence Ferlinghetti -- "In Goya's Greatest Scenes We Seem to See"  
Jorie Graham -- "San Sepolcro," "The Violinist at the Window, 1918," and "Two Paintings by Gustav Klimt"  
Barbara Guest -- "Roses"  
Michael S. Harper -- "Dear John, Dear Coltrane" and "The Militance of a Photograph in the Passbook of a Bantu under Detention"  
H.L. Hix -- "Cy Twombly 'Beyond (A System for Passing)'"  
John Keats -- "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "On Seeing Elgin Marbles"  
Paul Killebrew -- "In Eight Parts"  
Yusef Komunyakaa -- "Blackmoors, Villa La Pietra"  
Philip Larkin -- "An Arundel Tomb"  
Karen An-hwei Lee -- "Dream of Ink Brush Calligraphy"  
Valerie Martinez -- "Larry Levan (snake)"  
Andrew Marvell -- "The Picture of Little T.C. in a Prospect of Flowers" and "The Gallery"  
W.S. Merwin -- "Identity"  
Howard Moss -- "Painting a Wave"  
Marianne Moore -- "Nine Nectarines and Other Porcelain" and "No Swan so Fine"  
Susan Mitchell -- "Fragment of a Woman from Kos"  
Fred Moten -- "tonk and waterfront, blackline fade, unbuilt hotel, that union hall"  
Angel Nafias -- "Gravity"  
Lorine Niedecker -- "His Carpets Flowered"  
Frank O'Hara -- "On Seeing Larry Rivers' Washington Crossing the Delaware at the Museum of Modern Art" and "Radio"  
Alicia Ostriker -- "Nude Descending"  
D.A. Powell -- "callas lover" and "meditating upon the meaning of the line 'clams on the halfshell and rollerskates' in the song 'good times' by chic"

Carl Sandburg -- “Bronzes”  
Carmen Gimenez Smith -- “Decoy Gang War Victim”  
Stevie Smith -- “Deeply Morbid”  
A.E. Stallings -- “The Song Rehearsal”  
Gertrude Stein -- “If I Told Him, A Completed Portrait of Picasso”  
Liane Strauss -- “My Meninas and the Moon”  
Shuzu Takiguchi -- “Yves Tanguy”  
William Carlos Williams -- “The Boticellian Trees” and “Cezanne”  
Monica Youn -- “Drawing for Absolute Beginners”  
William Wordsworth -- “Elegiac Stanzas Suggested by a Picture of Peele Castle in a Storm, Painted by Sir George Beaumont”  
Liu Xia -- “Empty Chairs”

### **More Poetry**

*Additional poems or book-length poetic examples, largely twentieth-century or after:*

Dante Alighieri -- Canto 10, *Purgatorio*  
John Ashbery -- *Girls on the Run* (1999) and *The Vermont Notebook* (with Joe Brainard) (1975)  
W.H. Auden -- “Musee de Beaux Arts”  
Mary Jo Bang -- *The Eye Like a Strange Balloon* (2004) and *A Doll for Throwing* (2017)  
Mei-mei Berssenbrugge -- *Endocrinology* (1997) and *I Love Artists* (2006)  
John Berryman -- “Winter Landscape”  
Elizabeth Bishop -- “Large Bad Picture” and “Poem”  
Sarah Blake -- *Mr. West*  
William Blake -- *Songs of Innocence and Experience*  
Hart Crane -- “The Bridge”  
Mahmoud Darwish -- *Mural*  
Natalie Diaz -- “The Facts of Art” and “The Last Mojave Indian Barbie”  
Rita Dove -- “Lady Freedom Among Us”  
Heid E. Erdrich -- *Curator of Ephemera at the New Museum for Archaic Media*  
Allen Ginsberg -- “Cezanne’s Ports”  
Joy Harjo -- *Secrets from the Center of the World*  
Robert Hass -- “Art and Life” and “Time and Materials”  
Terrance Hayes -- *How to Be Drawn*  
Mary Hickman -- *Rayfish*  
Fanny Howe -- *Needle’s Eye*  
Randall Jarrell -- “The Knight, Death, and the Devil” and “The Bronze David of Donatello”  
Tyehimba Jess -- *Leadbelly* and *Olio*  
Jesse Lee Kercheval -- *Cinema Muto*  
Ann Lauterbach -- “Edward Hopper’s Way” and “In the Museum of the Word (Henri Matisse)”  
Robin Coste Lewis -- *The Sable Venus*  
Federico Garcia Lorca -- *Gypsy Ballads*  
Tan Lin -- *An Annotated Index to the Photographic Work of Diana Kingsley*

Fred Moten -- *B Jenkins* and "The Gramsci Monument"  
 Haryette Mullen -- *Muse and Drudge*  
 Pablo Neruda -- *Canto General*  
 Lorine Niedecker -- "Audubon" and "van Gogh"  
 Jena Osman -- *Public Figures*  
 Morgan Parker -- "'Lilac Wine' by Earth Kitt vs. 'Lilac Wine' by Jeff Buckley," "99 Problems," and "We Don't Know When We Were Opened (Or, The Origin of the Universe)"  
 Claudia Rankine -- *Citizen*  
 Adrienne Rich -- "Mourning Picture" and "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law"  
 Rainer Maria Rilke -- "Archaic Torso of Apollo"  
 Martha Ronk -- *Transfer of Qualities* and *Ocular Proof*  
 W.G. Sebald -- *After Nature*  
 Leslie Marmon Silko -- *Storyteller*  
 Edmund Spenser -- Book 3 of *The Faerie Queene*  
 Cole Swensen -- *Such Rich Hour*, *The Book of a Hundred Hands* and *The Glass Age*  
 Eileen Tabios -- *Dredging for Atlantis*  
 Natasha Trethewey -- *Belloq's Ophelia* and *Thrall*  
 Derek Walcott -- *Tiepolo's Hound* and *Morning, Paramin*  
 Rosanna Warren -- "Renoir"  
 Simone White -- *Dear Angel of Death*  
 C.D. Wright -- *One Big Self*  
 Charles Wright -- "Homage to Claude Lorrain" and "Homage to Paul Cezanne"  
 William Carlos Williams -- *Pictures from Breughel and Other Poems*  
 John Yau -- *Further Adventures in Monochrome*, *Exhibits*, and *Bijoux in the Dark*  
 Monica Youn -- *Ignatz*  
 Kevin Young -- *Jelly Roll: a blues*, *To Repel Ghosts*, and *Black Maria*

### **Prose of all Kinds**

*The following works include sustained engagements with real or imagined works of art; collections in which no chapters, stories, or essays are designated contain more than three.*

Hanif Abdurraquib -- *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us* (2017)  
 Joan Acocella -- *Twenty-Eight Artists and Two Saints* (2008)  
 Cesar Aira -- *An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter* (2000)  
 Hilton Als -- "Michael" in *White Girls* (2013)  
 Donald Antrim -- Title story in *The Emerald Light in the Air* (2014)  
 James Baldwin -- *The Devil Finds Work* (1976)  
 Honore de Balzac -- "The Unknown Masterpiece" (1831)  
 Dodie Bellamy -- "Phone Home" in *When the Sick Rule the World* (2015)  
 John Berger -- *A Seventh Man* (1975), *Selected Essays* (2001), and *Bento's Sketchbook* (2011)  
 T.C. Boyle -- *The Women* (2009)  
 Anne Boyer -- *A Handbook of Disappointed Fate* (2018)  
 Charlotte Bronte -- *Villette* (1853)

Tisa Bryant -- *Unexplained Presence* (2007)  
Roberto Calasso -- *Tiepolo Pink* (2009)  
Anne Carson -- "Hopper: *Confessions*" from *Men in the Off Hours* (2000), *Decreation* (2005), and "Cassandra Float Can" in *Float* (2016)  
Teju Cole -- *Blind Spot* (2017)  
John D'Agata -- "Martha Graham, Audio Description Of" and "Collage History of Art, by Henry Darger" in *Halls of Fame* (2003)  
Guy Davenport -- "Writing Untied and Retied as Drawing" and "Guernica" in *The Hunter Gracchus* (1996)  
Don DeLillo -- "Baader-Meinhoff" in *The Angel Esmerelda* (2011)  
Joan Didion -- "Georgia O'Keefe" in *The White Album* (1979)  
Fyodor Dostoyevsky -- *The Idiot* (1874)  
Geoff Dyer -- *The Ongoing Moment* (2005), *Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi* (2009), and *Zona* (2012)  
Deborah Eisenberg -- "Someone to Talk To" in *All Around Atlantis* (1998)  
Ralph Ellison -- *Living With Music* (2002)  
Thalia Field -- *Ululu (Clown Shrapnel)* (2007)  
T Fleischmann -- *Syzgy, Beauty: An Essay* (2011)  
Michael Frayn -- *Headlong* (1999)  
Amy Fusselman -- *Idiophone* (2018)  
Mary Gaitskill -- "I've Seen it All" and "Imaginary Light" in *Somebody With A Little Hammer: Essays* (2017)  
William Gass -- "Rilke's Rodin" in *A Temple of Texts* (2006)  
Jean Genet -- "What Remains of a Rembrandt Torn into Four Equal Pieces and Flushed Down the Toilet" in *Fragments of the Artwork* (1982)  
Renee Gladman -- *Calamities* (2016)  
Ariel Goldberg -- *The Photographer* (2015) and *The Estrangement Principle* (2016)  
Bruce Hainley -- *Under the Sign of [sic]* (2014)  
Riley Hanick -- *Three Kinds of Motion* (2015)  
Nathaniel Hawthorne -- "The Artist of the Beautiful" (1844)  
Susan Howe -- *Sorting Facts, Or, Nineteen Ways of Looking at Marker* (2013)  
Leroi Jones -- *Blues People* (1963)  
John Keene -- "Acrobatique" in *Counternarratives* (2015)  
Wayne Koestenbaum -- *The Queen's Throat* (1993), *The Anatomy of Harpo Marx* (2012), and *Notes on Glaze* (2016)  
Chris Kraus -- *Video Green* (2004) and *Where Art Belongs* (2011)  
Amitava Kumar -- *Passport Photos* (2000)  
Rachel Kushner -- *The Flamethrowers* (2013)  
Nathalie Leger -- *Suite for Barbara Loden* (2015)  
Nathaniel Mackey -- *From a Broken Bottle Traces of Perfume Still Emanate* (2011)  
Bernard Malamud -- Title story in *Rembrandt's Hat* (1973)  
Janet Malcolm -- *Forty-One False Starts* (2013)  
Greil Marcus -- *Mystery Train* (1975) and *Invisible Republic* (1997)  
Douglas Martin -- *Your Body Figured* (2008)

Herman Melville — “Spouter Inn” chapter in *Moby Dick* (1851)  
Stephen Millhauser -- “Catalogue of the Exhibition” in *Little Kingdoms* (1998)  
Eileen Myles -- *The Importance of Being Iceland* (2009)  
Maggie Nelson -- *Bluets* (2009) and *The Art of Cruelty* (2011)  
Elena Passarello -- “Ganda” and “Vogel Staar” in *Animals Strike Curious Poses* (2017)  
Lisa Robertson -- “7.5 Minutes for Eva Hesse” in *Nilling* (2012)  
Salman Rushdie -- *The Moor’s Last Sigh* (1995)  
John Ruskin -- *Modern Painters* (1843), *The Seven Lamps of Architecture* (1849) and *The Stones of Venice* (1853)  
Rebecca Rutkoff -- *The Irresponsible Magician* (2015)  
Charles Simic -- *Dime-Store Alchemy: The Art of Joseph Cornell* (1992)  
Ali Smith -- *How to Be Both* (2014)  
Zadie Smith -- *Feel Free* (2018)  
Rebecca Solnit -- *River of Shadows* (2003)  
Susan Sontag -- *On Photography* (1977)  
Gilberto Sorrentino -- *Lunar Follies* (2005)  
Shapton -- *Swimming Studies* (2012)  
Dana Spiotta -- *Innocents and Others* (2016)  
John Jeremiah Sullivan -- *Pulphead* (2011)  
Barry Targan -- Title story in *Harry Belten and the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto* (1975)  
Donna Tartt -- *The Goldfinch* (2013)  
Greg Tate -- *Flyboy in the Buttermilk* (1992)  
Lewis Thomas -- *Late Night Thoughts on Listening to Mahler’s Symphony* (1983)  
David Thomson -- *A Biographical Dictionary of Film* (1975)  
Lynne Tillman -- *The Complete Madame Realism and Other Stories* (2016)  
Edmund de Waal -- *The Hare with Amber Eyes* (2010) and *The White Road* (2015)  
Robert Walser -- *Looking at Pictures* (2015)  
Peter Weiss -- *Aesthetics of Resistance* (1975)  
Shawn Wen -- *A Twenty Minute Silence, Followed by Applause* (2017)  
Lawrence Weschler -- *Mr. Wilson’s Cabinet of Wonder* (1995)  
Oscar Wilde -- *Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)  
Ellen Willis -- *Out of the Vinyl Deeps* (2011)  
Virginia Woolf -- *To the Lighthouse* (1927)  
Marguerite Yourcenar -- Title essay in *The Dark Brain of Piranesi* (1984)