

1977

# Racing

Ray Ronci

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## The Time It Will Take / Ray Ronci

From one room  
Seeing the vase on the table  
Seeing the sliding glass door  
That opens to a porch  
Where there is no porch

Thinking of the vase propelled at the door  
My lips against yours  
Will I go to pieces at your feet  
Or break through you  
And disintegrate below

In the door  
The vase is reflected  
In the vase the door

In the distance  
Simply the time it will take

## Racing / Ray Ronci

Cyclists! yes cyclists!  
And the hillside is lovely  
And there is much more than legs moving  
Rapidly there waves from a blue scarf from  
A long sleeve and more  
Many! More frequently! the hills  
Are greener and rounder  
And this one  
The highest ah  
Down down and so also  
The day passes the edge  
And stands open to the door  
Open to it

The lights and dresses gleaming  
In the ballroom  
The salesman's New York City in 1955  
The penthouse and the owner of the large  
The largest factory "in the world!"

The cab the wet lights floating above asphalt  
The balcony and leaning  
Staring at the 3 AM traffic  
Still dressed the same and no less  
Remembering  
How one walks away and beyond the door  
Becomes glass so often in the hand  
And up to the lips  
Imagining her to be somehow  
As perfect as the taste of cold  
As unforgettable as

Cyclists! yes the hills much greener  
The sun much higher much like a helmet  
Tires passing black quickly  
Like the eyes of those in the passing  
The wrong flags waving in the distance  
The finish  
And the smiles dropping from the faces  
Of those standing  
Now turning away

## The Drunk / Ray Ronci

His hands and feet are sleeping on waves  
His limbs are tunnels reaching out like a starfish  
His head is barely visible like a rock in the ocean

Meanwhile the truth is he is laying on the outfield  
In the rain  
And there are blackbirds all around him  
And all around the baseball park  
Noonday traffic like crowds of people  
Standing in the rain saying: Shhhhhhhh

And he  
Is face down and spread out  
Reaching so to speak like a hand