

for coating his wood creamy
& then moving on
to the next man?

they say that change is gonna come
multi-channeled
satellite
hooked up
tranced out on 24-7
direct shit tv

but all i see
are real cop shows
with real extras
teens catching cases of
h
i
v
more sex
more violence
& nuff psychic fiends

when shuttles
leave entries for *el niño (la niña)*
i & i
i'm talking
god
& we see ourselves
i-three —
if we aren't able
to detach ourselves
from distractions
documented
in archaeology
& mismatched
history
understanding
that these situations
really aren't that new...
then it won't stop

karen (miranda) augustine is a Toronto-based writer and mixed-media artist whose work has been published in a number of anthologies, feminist and art publications. Her poem, "revelations," was recorded for the Urbanicity Spoken-Word Compilation (Chicago: Urbanicity, 1999). Currently, she is a graduate student at York University.

ANNE-MARIE BRUMM

DIONYSUS IN THE DIASPORA

lovers on the
lunar-crated roof,
rows of tenements,
lulled to sleep by the
opiate of sameness.

an Iacchic cry –
but where the festival
for night's fertile mystery,
the airshaft thick with talk,
a child's wail, a lonely
cough, a rapper gone berserk.

at 3 a.m. a siren of bells –
the block drunk
wild with key punch glee
at the wrong house again,
a continuous hive of humanity.

inside the cells? who cares?
knocking windows, swollen
and stiff in the dank air,
sweating walls, gnawing mice,
a triple latch door, bare burned-out
bulbs dissolve like people
into the scene.

overheads whispering stars
promise a different world,
the lovers reach
for Dionysus' boat,
their orphic eyes
eager to set sail,

but white shrouds float by,
soiled and blood-spotted.
midnight is over
and they are left
with an imitation Greek vase.

Anne-Marie Brumm has published over 100 poems in a wide variety of literary journals and two volumes of poetry, Dance of Life and Last Exit to Peace.