

*Autographs and
Renderings*

by Julio Peralta-Paulino

From *Autographs and Renderings*:

DRAFTED

And if they should ask me
 About my position
I will say it country simple
 "I am an enlisted man
Serving with pride
 I serenade her grace
There could be nothing greater
Shrapnel of laughter or scorn
Keeps me not from the front lines
Never mind apathy or fear
She covers with me from both and more
At times I could blush and yet
The action of this gun will not
Fail to aim and fire
Against the walls that keep me from her
truth
Or the lies I tell myself or others try to
sell
My own the speak of distrust
The others rust with hatred
But I pass those doubts in a hurry to
adore
The love which carries her name
And is my banner"

Mapping Medea

by Amy Lynn Hess

From *Mapping Medea*:

NORTHCREST AND CHAMBLEE-TUCKER

she ambles
a stork
a Siamese twin

two legs
two canes
four shopping bags

she sways
beach grass
a hurricane

and one
and two
and three cars cut the corner

she ambles
she sways
a stork
beach grass
holding a Siamese twin
bracing for a hurricane

two legs
and one
two canes
and two
four shopping bags
and three cars cut the corner

Cozy in My Cardboard Box

by Amy Lynn Hess

From *Cozy in My Cardboard Box*:

CATS WHO SWIM THROUGH FLEA BATHS

if cats would willingly swim through flea
baths
(leaving a trail of dead things as they go)
i wouldn't
have to
give the cat
you left
with me
a bath for fleas

and
if you were here
i wouldn't
have to
pass my time
dreaming
about cats who
swim through flea baths
(leaving a trail of dead things as they go)

-December 9, 2002-

*Is There Room in the Alley
for Another Poet?*

by Amy Lynn Hess

From *Is There Room in the Alley for
Another Poet?*:

I CAME TO YOUR WINDOW

like you asked me to
stood in the rain and you slept
with a book in your hand with the light
on
slept

i was soaked drunk outside
may as well've been naked
so i started down the hill to go back to
the bar
where it was warm and noisy
but decided to come back by the time i
got to the alley

lifted my hand to knock
rolled over as you slept
dropped your book and the light went out

-March 2001-