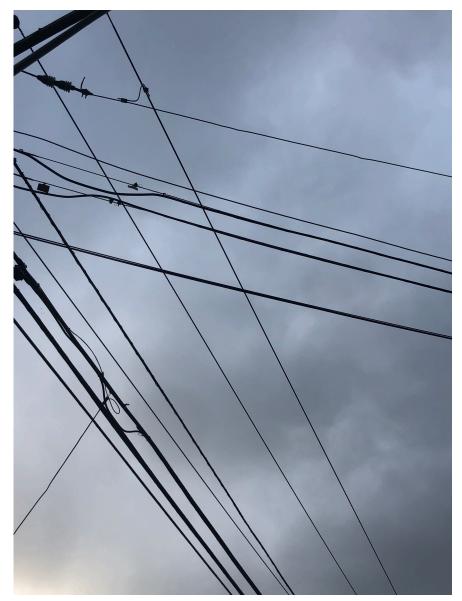
New Poetry from Marc Tretin: "Justin Alter, Slightly Drunk, Addresses Maya, Who Is In Egypt" and "Maya Ricci Alter After Excavating A Pyramid South Of Zairo"



HOT WIRES SCALD / image by Amalie Flynn

JUSTIN ALTER, SLIGHTLY DRUNK, ADDRESSES MAYA, WHO IS IN EGYPT

Now as I am hungover and queasy stumping about the tilting house and sappy as my face is green, Maya, your sculpture of Qetesh, that goddess of sex and ecstasy, whose torso of clear pink plastic has a heart made of puzzle pieces dangling from wires that run to an automated external defibrillator normally used to shock a rapid cardiac rhythm back to normal, stares at me with eyes filled with both desire and despair. Though feeling embarrassed I touch the pink nub you meant to be her clit and a soft whirr starts, then puzzle pieces spin so fast they tear, and scatter and the bare hot wires scald the insides of her perfect breasts. I pull the plug, but the smell of burnt plastic fills our bedroom despite the open windows. Why do you have to be gone so long?

MAYA RICCI ALTER EXCAVATING A PYRAMID SOUTH OF CAIRO

As I stooped beneath the standing sun within the meter-by-meter carefully measured order of this archeological dig and brushed pottery shards and papyrus crumbs through a sieve to sift out the sand, the heat's strong hands touched me like a half-wanted lover, whose warmth

is too familiar with my body to refuse and that's why when Jamaal, the site boss said, "You look overheated. Cool off in my trailer." "Yes," I said, knowing I wanted to betray Justin but not knowing why, so after we had sex and while I was thinking how can I use this experience, I saw Jamaal shave with a straight edge then I saw the dead-on right image for the God Set, a cave-sized skull made of razor blades, entered by stepping over teeth made of sharp knives into total darkness except for a weak light piercing this skull through one of its eyes and in that eye is a web and tangled in its threads are Zipporah and Justin. Their faces, formless rags. Their bodies sucked out hulks.