

Richard Fein – Two Poems

A Forebearance Of Needless Charity

Legs awry, right hand clutching a cane,
shambling up the subway steps and myself charging down them,
we met halfway.
I stretched out my arm to offer help.
She gave me a scowl, an I-depend on-no-kindness-from-strangers stare.
I continued my descent and she her ascent.
When I reached bottom I waited until she reached the top.
And she knew, just knew, that I was still there, below, keeping an unwanted vigil.
She deigned to look down on me with an I-didn't-need-you sneer.
But that sneer softened to a silent thank-you smile.
No words were ever spoken yet everything was said.
And from below, and from above, we gave each other a thumbs up.

The Ultimate Weapons of Mass Destruction

Capital buildings of every nation contain them,
along with every hovel in the shadow of a hilltop mansion
along with every hilltop mansion.
These weapons are ubiquitous.
No, not sarin, agent orange, ricin, cyanide, mustard gas,
or even the toxic excretion of anthrax bacteria,
for they're all as harmless as a loaded gun in a locked drawer.
But stormy testosterone and fiery adrenalin,
blended together in improper proportions,
are the Molotov cocktails thrown against those locked drawers
which spill out their contents into seas of angry flames.

Richard Fein was a finalist in The 2004 New York Center for Book Arts Chapbook Competition. A Chapbook of his poems was published by Parallel Press, University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has been published in many web and print journals such as *Cordite*, *Cortland Review*, *Reed*, *Southern Review*, *Roanoke Review*, *Green Silk Journal*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *Paris/atlantic*, *Canadian Dimension*, *Black Swan Review*, *Exquisite Corpse*, *Foliate Oak*, *Morpo Review*, *Ken*Again*, *Oregon East*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Morpo*, *Skyline*, *Touchstone*, *Windsor Review*, *Maverick*, *Parnassus Literary Review*, *Small Pond*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Exquisite Corpse*, *Terrain Aroostook Review*, *Compass Rose*, *Whiskey Island Review*, *Oregon East*, *Bad Penny Review*, *Constellations*, *The Kentucky Review*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, and many others.