

## **Ricky Rapoport Friesem**

### Frequent Flyer

In a strange city  
where no one knows my name  
I can ignore the sights and sit  
in outdoor coffee shops for hours,  
staring at the passers-by. (What  
do I care if they stare back at me?).  
No one will raise an eyebrow  
if I smoke too much or comb my hair  
or freshen up my lipstick on the street.  
I can sling my purse across my chest,  
read magazines at newsstands  
(and not feel I have to buy a thing)  
or choose instead to spend the day  
in a hotel room with a book and  
order up my meals and eat in bed.  
(So what if I leave crumbs?)  
And then again I might go out  
to shop and try on clothes and perfumes  
(thanks, just testing, ma'am, no thanks)  
or say, okay, and even let a salesgirl  
do-me-over, line my eyes in black my lips  
in clown-bright red. And afterwards  
I'll wipe it off and find a park bench  
in the sun and turn my face up  
to be bronzed so that back home  
they'll say: "*Looks like you've had  
yourself a wonderful vacation.*"

**Ricky Rapoport Friesem**, was born in Calgary and raised in Toronto, Canada. She moved to Israel in 1972 where she is a poet and documentary filmmaker. She has also written two cook books: *Fruits of the Earth* (Adama Books, 1985) and *Joy of Israel* (Steimatzky, 1976). In 2007, her first poetry collection, (*Parentheses*). was awarded First Prize in Writer's Digest 2007 International Self-Published Book Awards . Her second collection, *Laissez-Faire*, was published in October 2009. Her poetry has appeared in *Moment*, *Ariga*, *The Jewish Daily Forward*, *Lucidity*, *Poetica*, *the 2007 Voices Israel Anthology*, *Poetry Canada* and *the Jewish Daily Forward*. She received Honorable Mention in both the 2005 and 2006 *Poetica Magazine Annual Poetry Contest*, in *Lilith Magazine's* 2007 Charlotte Newberger Poetry Competition, in the 2007 *Reuben Rose International Poetry Competition* and 2nd prize in *Palabras Press Dancing with Words*

contest. A collection of her poetry, entitled *My Intifada* was published in the Pudding House Publications Chapbook Series in 2006.