

Nina Rubinstein Alonso – Two Poems

The Famous Sky

Three Cambridge ghosts sit at the cafe
while the moon rolls its pasty pearl
through a scrim of phantom cloud
Patsy sips cappuccino tilting her head

at a sketch that's almost but not quite done
Miguel holds a gold angel
with wings he hammered too wide
wondering who might buy it

Louise revises and erases
rewrites and arranges words
I'm lonely in this world of mist
seeing friends who can't see me

deaf to my voice my tears
none believers in much
beyond nature wrecker of bones
no blessing on the pieces

soul a balloon of mind a silken flag
on the wind not a carpet to ride home
but I watch them lift cups of silence
as if toasting the famous sky.

*Patsy Hoffman, painter, Miguel Gusils, goldsmith, Louise Bogan, poet
at Josefina Yanguas' Pamplona Cafe, Bow Street, Cambridge, MA

Cloud High

Flying high he starts throwing
things at the ceiling

it's an old apartment
no one cares we're flinging

paper plates and Carol's
beret and a stale bagel

and Bob's dirty socks
amused that nothing stays up

the force of gravity still works
yanking things down

except us beaming skyward
on fuzzy green clouds.

Nina Rubinstein Alonso's poems appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Sumac*, *Ploughshares*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Bagel Bards*, *MomEgg*, *U. Mass. Review*, *New Boston Review*, etc., and her stories appeared most recently in *Broadkill Review* and *Southern Women's Review*, one a Pushcart nominee. Her book *This Body* was published by David Godine. She works with *Constellations a Journal of Poetry and Fiction* (constellations-lit.com) and teaches at Fresh Pond Ballet School (freshpondballet.com).