



Poem by Ron Androla and Larry Lawrence

Blue Lady

a honeysuckle stingray
under the mud of blue paint
flutters cloudy water
as decades pass. she bursts
as sleek as a marlin
walking on startled ocean.
david's eyelash, chewing-gum,
sky, his mouth. a mounted trophy
above gilded mirrors
& top shelf liquor bottles
licks tranquility. imaginable,
rose-colored vulva lips smile.
ripped fish laugh like donkeys.
she cums on the wall,
on a moon-lit surface of memory.

Déhanché nocturne
oil on canvas 2010,
47.2" x 23.6 "

Painting by
Jean-Noël Delettre

The Process

Ron Androla

I thought the project was a failure, that Larry Lawrence & I had not been able to write a poem based on Jean-Noel Delettre's painting per a "Legends" theme for Ms. Menendez & her publishing empire. Larry had originally sent me a poem, which I then re-worked, but after showing both versions to my wife, Ann, whose critical eye I trust more than anyone, she simply sighed & sd something about both versions being throw-aways & in fact ignorant to the fairer sex. I agreed. Jean-Noel's painting had not been done any justice by our words. I was close to giving up, but Larry & I continued to collaborate, to see if we cld manage something worthy of the Art. I found a more vibrant nude Jean-Noel had recently created, & suggested to Larry we change our focus to this new painting. Jean-Noel nodded, & I think Larry & I have reached a poem together that stays true to the artwork & theme. I did not expect this collaboration to be such a challenge, but I am grateful to my comrades for the good fight.

Larry Lawrence

I was amazed at how challenging it was to complete this project. Writing a poem with someone you never met, about a painting created by an artist who resides in France. Of course, this could only be accomplished with the internet. We got to know each other through emails, Facebook messages, and collaborative writing.

Ron and I originally selected another of Jean Noelle's paintings. We sent many drafts back and forth and our ideas, phrases and imagery kept changing with each rewrite. We found ourselves far from what had originally captivated us both when we selected the artwork. Ron suggested using another one of Jean Noelle's paintings and it put us both on the same page again!

Writing with Ron made me begin to think differently about the elements of poetry. One message in particular, left a strong impression, "A poem should have substance, big words that make the reader stop for a moment, words that want to be read for their surprise."