

NOHO Nigger

This North Hollywood,
This Hispanic Hacienda,
Never interrupted my dreams,
My wide-open spaces and Herculean Grand Canyon,
In the middle of my stomach of skull,
The middle of my middle,

The very God I walk with,
The angular Ghost I sometimes balk with,
The converted ex-converts peopling this valley I stalk with,
This San Fernando of my nightmares,
This East Valley of my blisters,
The porno palace of my sacred unsacred,
This very unsouled soul of candied yams
And Armenian avenues,
These boulevards of stretching asphalt and tubercular hiccups,

I once believed in you NOHO,
In your bent elbows and
Busy hands,
Your fingers of furthest oblivion,
Your thumbs of spit and polish,

Your artists and artisans,

Your teeming red valley of aberrant hopes and dismayed stares,
Your silver Saturns and
Tilted pinball tomorrows,

Once I did,
Now I am colder than an Antarctic Winter,

Heavier afoot than I ever cared to be,

Dangerous to the wrong people,
And angry at the right,

I awake blacker than coal,
Colder than hardest urinal,
And more tired than bison after the white man,

My giving has become taking,
My us and we are me and me and me some more,

A warm and willowy redwood between lines of abrasive apathy,
A worn but wieldy architect of yarn and string lowering the boom
on baked bean mediocrity like Einstein did math,

Give me substance not style
Rose red nipples not silicone sponges
Practitioners not posers
Cities not centipedes
Tokens not freeways
Life not death,
Birth not Meth,
Minutes not miles,
Stage not screen,
Oak trees not palm,
Models not mannequins,
Skyscrapers not adobes,

Peevishness not paranoia,
Celebrity not status,
Love not sex,

Because in the North Hollywood of my existence,
Bounded by Lankershim and Victory,
Reality is a burrito not a promise.

Radomir Luza

Radomir Vojtech Luza is a poet/actor/writer/comedian/journalist/former political candidate/lead singer mixing structured spontaneity, informed wisdom and an enlightened soul to present work and performance balancing commerce and art. Born in Vienna, Austria, Luza, has performed Poetry and Comedy in New York City, New Jersey, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Atlanta, New Orleans, St. Louis, Biloxi, Pensacola, Ft. Walton Beach and Destin, FLA among other cities.

