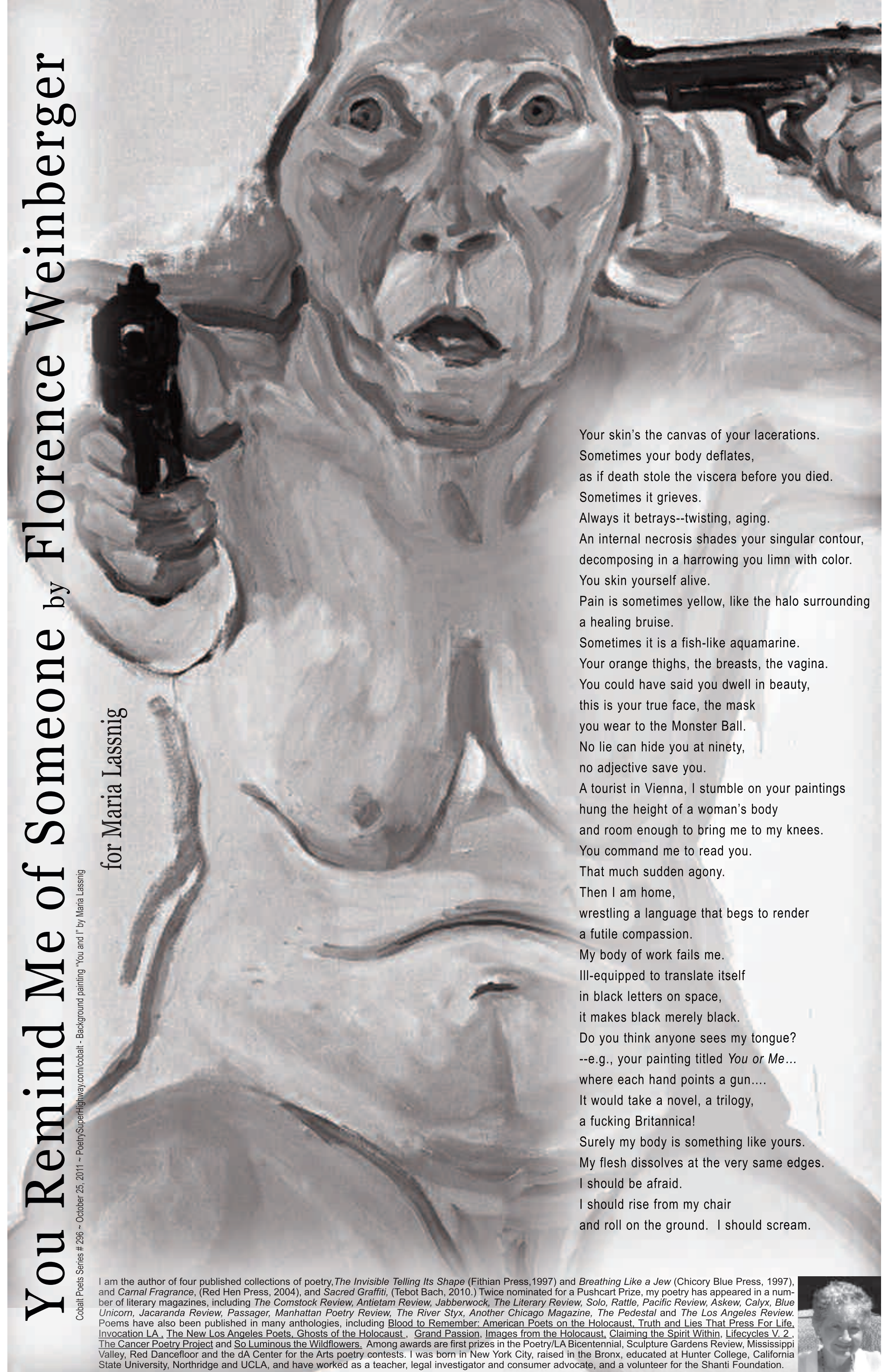


# You Remind Me of Someone by Florence Weinberger

for Maria Lassnig

Cobalt Poets Series # 296 ~ October 25, 2011 ~ PoetrySuperHighway.com/cobalt - Background painting "You and I" by Maria Lassnig



Your skin's the canvas of your lacerations.  
Sometimes your body deflates,  
as if death stole the viscera before you died.  
Sometimes it grieves.  
Always it betrays--twisting, aging.  
An internal necrosis shades your singular contour,  
decomposing in a harrowing you limn with color.  
You skin yourself alive.  
Pain is sometimes yellow, like the halo surrounding  
a healing bruise.  
Sometimes it is a fish-like aquamarine.  
Your orange thighs, the breasts, the vagina.  
You could have said you dwell in beauty,  
this is your true face, the mask  
you wear to the Monster Ball.  
No lie can hide you at ninety,  
no adjective save you.  
A tourist in Vienna, I stumble on your paintings  
hung the height of a woman's body  
and room enough to bring me to my knees.  
You command me to read you.  
That much sudden agony.  
Then I am home,  
wrestling a language that begs to render  
a futile compassion.  
My body of work fails me.  
Ill-equipped to translate itself  
in black letters on space,  
it makes black merely black.  
Do you think anyone sees my tongue?  
--e.g., your painting titled *You or Me...*  
where each hand points a gun....  
It would take a novel, a trilogy,  
a fucking Britannica!  
Surely my body is something like yours.  
My flesh dissolves at the very same edges.  
I should be afraid.  
I should rise from my chair  
and roll on the ground. I should scream.

I am the author of four published collections of poetry, *The Invisible Telling Its Shape* (Fithian Press, 1997) and *Breathing Like a Jew* (Chicory Blue Press, 1997), and *Carnal Fragrance*, (Red Hen Press, 2004), and *Sacred Graffiti*, (Tebot Bach, 2010.) Twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, my poetry has appeared in a number of literary magazines, including *The Comstock Review*, *Antietam Review*, *Jabberwock*, *The Literary Review*, *Solo*, *Rattle*, *Pacific Review*, *Askew*, *Calyx*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Jacaranda Review*, *Passager*, *Manhattan Poetry Review*, *The River Styx*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *The Pedestal* and *The Los Angeles Review*. Poems have also been published in many anthologies, including *Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*, *Truth and Lies That Press For Life*, *Invocation LA*, *The New Los Angeles Poets*, *Ghosts of the Holocaust*, *Grand Passion*, *Images from the Holocaust*, *Claiming the Spirit Within*, *Lifecycles V. 2*, *The Cancer Poetry Project* and *So Luminous the Wildflowers*. Among awards are first prizes in the Poetry/LA Bicentennial, Sculpture Gardens Review, Mississippi Valley, Red Dancefloor and the dA Center for the Arts poetry contests. I was born in New York City, raised in the Bronx, educated at Hunter College, California State University, Northridge and UCLA, and have worked as a teacher, legal investigator and consumer advocate, and a volunteer for the Shanti Foundation.

