 Untitled

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To Southern California

Los Angeles has been called
The ass-hole of the nation,
City of fools
Hollywood slime
Strip joints
Punk rock
Lady waiting
On every corner.
Hollywood high,
Reds, whites, dust, cocaine.

Southern California
Isn’t paradise you know . . .
Beverly Hills
Is for rich alcoholic copycats
Dusted heroes
And coked-out rockers.
Hollywood harbors the fag boys.
Did you see them?
Making love on the corner?
Broken has-beens
And never has-beens
Hide their dusty smiles
Behind dark glasses.

— Nancy Cuminale

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I am incapable of loving
Any intellectual or macho male
Heroes married to Fame
Or athletes riding on egos.
Instead I create
For five days now
Long blond locks uncombed
Vicious blue eyes
Notorious for rape
And other contemptible acts . . .
I starve (and itch) dry-mouthed
For brutal hands of unvaccinated
Strangers
To paint my body with true passion
And then fade away still unknown
Leaving me (a stranger)
Gasping for breath in the morning
At the savage perfection
Of the man I still don’t know.

— Nancy Cuminale