

Exquisite Corpse Poem

by the Members of the Cape Cod and Islands Art Educators Association, with Education Curator Lynn Stanley



After Irving Marantz's *In the Museum* (alternatively known as *Arena or Horses*), 1965
Oil on canvas, 69" x 53" Gift of Julie Rose and Dr. Mady Marantz, 2007

About the process:

The technique of assembling an "exquisite corpse," using and combining either words or images collectively, was developed by artists and writers of the Surrealist movement in the early 20th century. To create the poem below, each participant observed the painting and contributed one line anonymously. The lines were then assembled to form the poem.

The blue holds the painting together.
Horses through a glass--close, but not close enough.
On parade after a race.
Don't look back.

Horses at play, like a circus in the sky.
New foals on unsure legs, enjoying nature's air,
as onlookers think to process them.
Horse selection: *I like the brown one!*

Bright blue skies call to the creatures on earth,
but sometimes humans look down.
Floating horses in blue, look to the sky,
corralled or free, observed.
Give him his head, doesn't like to be had.

Horses and people--what are they looking at?
Horses look energetic, and the women
look like they are sketching the horses.

Horses singing for their audience.
Enjoying the horse concert.
I think the one on the right
is definitely pitch perfect!

Horses, horses, horses-
Horses braying, horses staying,
but horses soon to be awaying....