

## Stop Creating Elvis Manure

Photographers graft legends onto cornstalks and  
ring a truck with anti-cavities.

The stork descends in an almost human way.  
Is it the lark or Lisa Marie Presley?

The only hole in the donut worth mentioning  
is the one through which we pour our regrets.

This is tiring, but loneliness is the forearm of temptation.

The light diminishes with every eyelash.  
Poster boys in strange poses seem irrelevant.

What counts is that Lisa Marie is happy.  
Otherwise, the links lose traction and  
sanity produces melancholy pancakes.

First published in *Faultline* (Volume 20, 2011)

## Gumbo Drops His Load

Seven philanthropists dressed as dental hygienists  
rush to catch it, but they're too late.

"All's well that ends well," says Gumbo and  
the S&P 500 shows an immediate upward spike.

Bells ring, but not on Wall Street.  
They are held by elderly residents of Madame Bovary's Lapidarium.  
They are calling for their afternoon soup and crackers.

Meanwhile, along the shoreline, sand peddlers are facing hard times.  
"There's no shortage of sand," explain the local lifeguards,  
as they rush to the water holding red floatees in both hands.  
Mermaids, just offshore, have been waving and calling for help.  
"Help with what?" cry the lifeguards.

First published in *Faultline* (Volume 20, 2011)

## Nudes Descending Staircases

Nudes in basements  
and on fire escapes  
folding laundry.  
Nudes in divorce courts and  
battleships and beside  
eager reporters.  
Nudes in department store  
windows and trailer courts  
and on leashes.  
Nudes in grocery stores  
and foreign armed service  
committee meetings.  
Nudes in gasmasks and  
armed with spears and  
floating facedown in tide pools.  
Nudes answering questions  
and flushing toilets and  
calmly folding their ballots.  
Nudes on Ferris wheels  
and on motorcycles and  
forgetting their fathers.  
Nudes at the opera,  
drinking champagne and  
fondling their binoculars.  
Nudes eating applesauce  
and forgetting to feed the fish.

First published in *Margie* (Volume Eight/2009)