

## Nicholas Manning

### love poem 102

we are deeper  
from all \* things : deeper  
and further . . . the glistening core ? the still  
implied leaves \* which never can  
console me : for you  
are far \* from  
the world  
and deep within me your image  
I cannot carry : I cannot weigh in a simple absence  
your touch . . . your silence resembling  
and in every childish dream  
a thought  
(of you) : promised *bonheur* . . . as behind  
the glass as colder café \* windows :  
desire : rain-streaked : auburn  
-curling \*  
by lips  
to some new happiness  
*real* ? or this false memory an Idol  
to my love ? as may I hope from  
you delivery \* to the(n) dying  
world ? or but continu-  
ance in a frozen time  
of \* my past \* life  
and the memory  
of deeper  
things ?

## underneath

beyond \*

the ranges are ranges (still) :

under the pallid \* breasts to knot

a russet muscles : fibre

veins

to \* string

a *tout* . . . yet too

a leaf which in the roughage

lives \* invader . . . by

the heart to swathe

an \* ageless

melody :

the initial percussion

which with the wet in veins

is wrapped : an inner profusion

too original obscurity \* preliminary

to our lives' limits : which though

the night with new light is

this inner \* heart

dwells

dark

## argument in defence of abstraction

what \*  
is *further* from  
the real ? that this mark  
is in its object \* *anchored* ? rancoured  
to the vital day : for how confine \*  
the many gleaming sides  
of the thing ?  
say  
this shaft of Light is long  
this one \* close to  
its origins . . .  
the spatial fallacy ! as though a many  
perspectives were not so \* made  
out of the self (-same) turning  
infinitesimal  
point . . .  
O \* plural world ! \* O  
infinite leaves ! a language false : a language true  
when both are but the changing \* shades  
of a one \* same water : shimmering  
still \* shaded \* lit  
and endless

## love poem 96

your image  
is as a white blinding \* rose :  
pose \* upon the glittering  
water (-lily)  
which fills my mind \* yet secretly sabotage  
my every desire . . . for you flee (for)  
the slightest sound : adoring  
rustle ! too ardent  
words . . . until all is lost : of a sudden  
so \* when still I may have held you  
and but my eager élan  
ignore . . . lost . . .  
the broken \*  
flower  
not even yet ever \* made :  
but in my mind a petals of pure possibility  
proud \* born . . . thorn of my still will  
to love ! nothing more : no \* too  
violent shore . . . or but one  
last chance ? O too fragile  
thing : delicate will I  
now be : too many  
words so \* said :  
if you are not  
to me now  
dead

## love poem 104

why \*  
wait we : beloved ?  
let these same rains fall and these same  
ebb evenings envelop a city  
which knows us (only)  
apart . . . when hold  
you ? you  
-r tender proximity \* to a closeness  
(in the so awaited hours) of the new and eternal  
sanctuary : your *regard* . . . within  
your world-warming  
brea(s)t(h)s . . .  
each day  
a death : for we are  
the sad opacity  
of our future  
spectres ?  
yet let the weeks  
pass by . . . the seasons  
change \* and the overwhelming scent and touch of dust  
bold-blind both my eyes and thy fair \* aspect ?  
making the wan world ('s) poor potential  
white ? . . . for what world  
do you contain ?  
an error  
in possession ? some  
alterity to this ? or the simple perfection  
(in these ageless avenues) of time's  
dead \* as \* knowing  
implements ?

## apricot

seed \*  
in a black ball to bury  
down the honey mush to slush . . .  
to seep a syrup  
rich \*  
in orange gleam a globule  
sun . . . -rise where now the rotten  
auburn bleeds \* a new dawn . . . rose-  
fingered  
fibres \* round the brown \* stone  
spiralled : the ridgèd core  
whose centre tight  
secretes \* no  
eluding  
light

### Bio:

Nicholas Manning is a Paris-based poet who graduated from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia with a B.A in Comparative Literature and French. He was a recipient of a scholarship to the Ecole normale supérieure, where he is currently working towards a PhD dissertation on the subject of rhetoric in contemporary French and American Poetry. His poems have appeared, or are soon to appear, in the following literary journals: Free Verse, Fascicle, MiPOesias, eratio, Stylus, Aught, Shampoo, Dusie, Manifold, The Rose & Thorn, Snow Monkey, Blue Fifth Review, Cipher Journal, Fire, Centoria, Imago.