

"Words' Worth" Poetry Readings

Poets at the Culture, Arts, and Parks Committee of the Seattle City Council.

Propensity by Brenda Givens

She had the propensity to sing
And so she did
It was the lubricant administered against the
friction of her daily struggle to survive
Her voice dispersed within the atmosphere
like water droplets jetting from a fountain
cooling all who wandered within earshot -
Her angelic utterances, a healing balm

She had the propensity to express within a single note
the corrupt nature flourishing within the world she lived -
the volatility of those who endured conditions worse than
the rats plaguing her children in the soft moonless night

Deep waters -
deeper yet
Her spirit rose
as her body drifted through the undercurrents - day to day

The timbre of her voice rumbled when she moaned in
sorrowful release
and passersby remarked in awesome veneration,
Ôthat girl has the propensity to sing...Ó

My Woods by Brenda Givens

Green
and shades of green.
The pallet of heaven and earth are
sundry blues and browns and greens.

The carpet of leaves
deflect the fat droplets falling from the trees-
sounding like the drums
sounding like the train on old tracks
sounding like the footfall of a thousand soldiers marching
YouÔd have to see
to feel
to experience
what I saw.
Then youÔd know
how sweet the air can really feel
or
just how light
and water
and green

can heal the troubled soul.

Not Quite Tame by Brenda Givens

Her leather pumps fall softly
upon concrete pathways

the breeze moves gently
through her wildish hair

no one pays her any mind
they disregard her stormy glimmer

in most ways
she resembles them

in many ways
she takes on human traits

in some ways
she exemplifies tranquility

but..
in the recesses of her smile
It translates through
she is not quite tame

Family Tree by Brenda Givens

When I die
There'll be nothing left of me
nothing left of me
nothing left of me

Except for a memory
Inside Ryan, Christofer and Linsay

Then I'll gladly climb that tree
above those who were free
and those bound by slavery.

This page was last updated: May 27, 2003