The Goddess Who Created This Passing World

By Alice Notley

The Goddess who created this passing world
    Said Let there be lightbulbs & liquefaction
    Life spilled out onto the street, colors whirled
    Cars & the variously shod feet were born
    And the past & future & I born too
    Light as airmail paper away she flew
    To Annapurna or Mt. McKinley
    Or both but instantly
    Clarified, composed, forever was I
    Meant by her to recognize a painting
    As beautiful or a movie stunning
    And to adore the finitude of words
    And understand as surfaces my dreams
    Know the eye the organ of affection
    And depths to be inflections
    Of her voice & wrist & smile


Source: Selected Poems (1993)