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)