

I DROPPED IN ON HIM

After Mary
sublet her place to Jim
and moved in with me
I dropped in on him

we sat around
Mary's table
he payed me the rent
opened a bottle

told me a joke
about life in Woodstock
and read me the poem
from that time

when we were capable
of another
postwar culture
based one rent control.

DEAR BEN,

These days
uncanny
fitness
is my vocation

how good to be
in my body
even
this one

mealy on
the inside
but tight
all around

I guess
the only
answer is
stay tuned.

OVERWHELMING

Overwhelming
mental states
wipe out
the coping skills

of a naked
lactating goddess
and a dressed
he man god

soon it's safe
to laugh out loud
manifestly
interested

laughter
that stifles
their signature
wordless vocals.

Steve Malmude