Arts in Conversation

Rebecca Ritzel

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His words are vivid, stark, and clear —
Yet vague — cubing ideas like figures of geometry
That converse loudly with Picasso.

He lectures, graphing the planes of possibility,
While his sermons outline the Gospel in gold
Preaching from the Florentine pulpit of DaVinci.

On a starry night he stirs whorls in the imaginations
Of people sitting in a yellow Paris café
Whose discussion is not heard by Van Gogh.

In agony, he argues indecisively, repeatedly,
With fractals, flies and the bust of Voltaire
Who complain boldly through the windows of Dali.

Slowly and carefully he enunciates his commission,
Like a hand reaching calmly down from heaven
To touch the Sistine prayers of Michelangelo.

Drifting through the gardens of Giverney he recites
The peace impressed by the slow moving waters,
That murmur through the lilies to Monet.

Silence, he is thinking, never audibly conversing
Yet profoundly advising philosophic reflection.
Immortalizing the rhetoric of Rodin.