

Listening to Poets Talk

by [Shai Afsai](#) (January 2021)



Artists' Group, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, 1912

The problem
is that poets turn mystics
when they talk about their craft,
describing poetry as life and light,
as miles above and beyond

all other forms of artistic expression
or communication,
and as the very thing
redeeming humanity
and distinguishing it from the beasts.

And that's when I wonder
if perhaps *poet* is another word for *charlatan*.

[Table of Contents](#)

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