

# The Freezing Artist

by [Joshua C. Frank](#) (April 2024)



Starving Artist Getting Warm by a Painting of Fire  
-Teun Hocks, 1990

## **The Freezing Artist**

*Based on the painting Starving Artist Getting Warm by a Painting of Fire*

I'm warming my hands by a make-believe fire—  
I hope to fend off old Jack Frost by a feint,  
Pretending that somehow I'll sate my desire  
By staring at yellows and reds mixed in paint.

I can't sell my paintings, I've nothing for spending;  
I can't keep a job, so I've nothing to eat,  
And somehow, I can't just warm up by pretending—  
I'd rather burn wood for some actual heat!

But wood can't be had, so it's back to the acting,  
Imagining warmth on my freezing-cold hands.  
I'll soon paint some food and some friends for distracting  
Myself from my life in these cold, windy lands.

## **Under the Umbrella**

*Inspired by "Le Parapluie" ("The Umbrella") by Georges Brassens (1921-1981)*

Rain fell in waves throughout the street;  
A woman walked with no umbrella.  
I offered mine; in voice real sweet,  
She answered, "Thank you, sir. I'm Stella."  
She dried her young, angelic face  
Under my umbrella space.

I stood with Stella, side by side.  
We heard the rain sing *a capella*,

A pretty choir chant outside,  
Atop the roof of my umbrella.  
Oh, for forty days together  
To hear the concert of the weather!

Yet sadly, even in a storm,  
Midnight strikes for Cinderella.  
Rain stops, roads go, and that's the norm.  
Foolishly, I'd hoped that Stella  
Would stay; instead, she went her way,  
Shrinking as she walked away.

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**Joshua C. Frank** works in the field of statistics and lives in the American Heartland. His poetry has been published in *The Society of Classical Poets*, *Snakeskin*, *The Lyric*, *Sparks of Calliope*, *Westward Quarterly*, *Atop the Cliffs*, *Our Day's Encounter*, *The Creativity Webzine*, *Verse Virtual*, and *The Asahi Haikuist Network*, and his short fiction has been published in *Nanoism* and *The Creativity Webzine*. His website is [here](#).

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