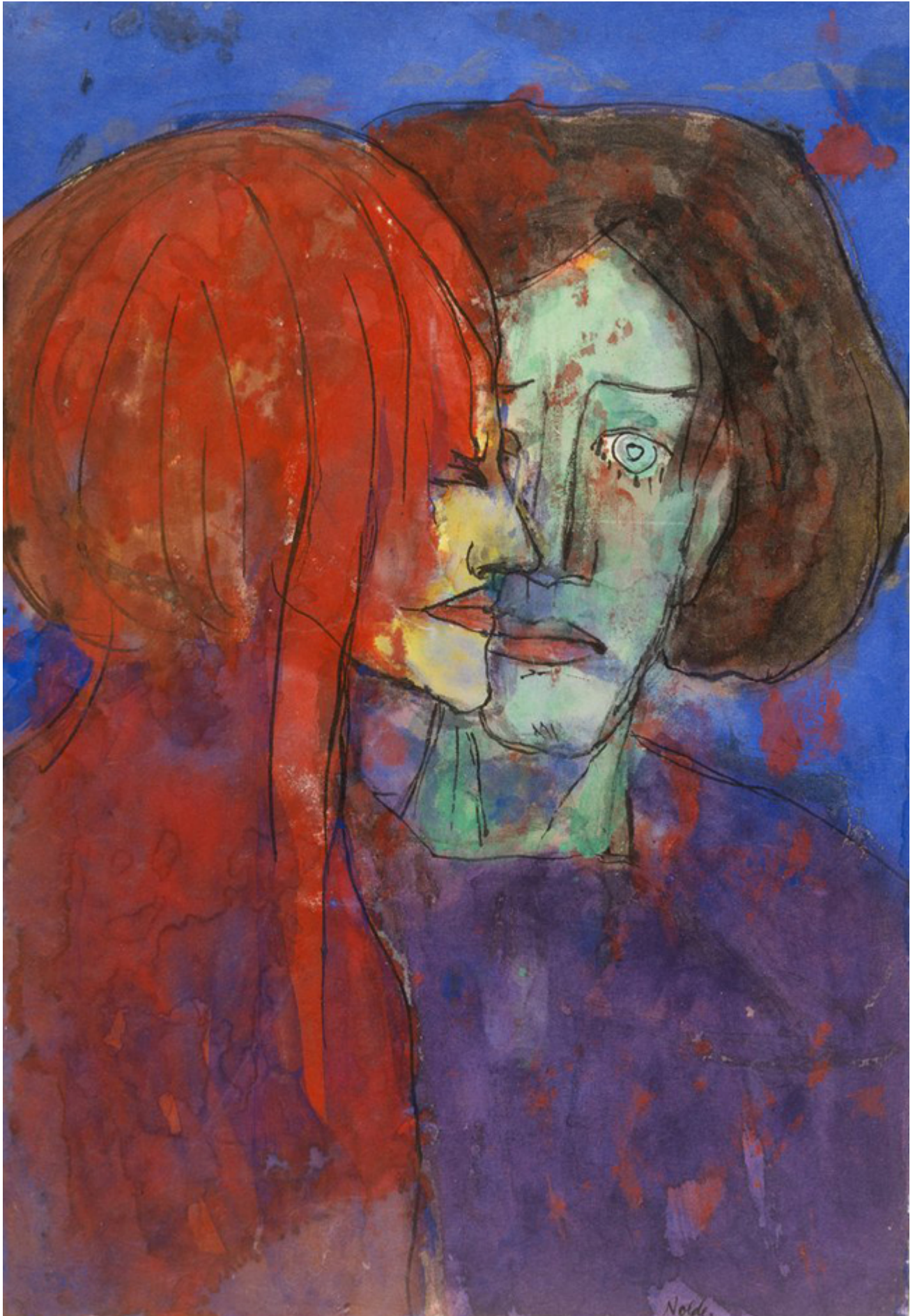


# Two Poems

by [Lois Marie Harrod](#) (June 2020)



*Couple*, Emil Nolde, 1931-34

## An Impersonal Sonnet

She said she would not write a sonnet for  
him, no, not him, not he who left the bed  
unmade, the kitchen counter dirty, floor  
unswept, not he who always wanted sex

at five am, no, no, she would not write  
a sonnet for that man, not he who left  
his socks inside his stinky boots, the lights  
on in the attic, the darks inside her head

because she would not hurt him, not him fixed  
like an ever-fixed crumb upon the table,  
unshaken, he said, in his love, unmixed  
in his affection what e'er she did, that fabled

guy who kept on bearing her to the edge of doom,  
the man who admitted no impediment, that one

## The Woman Who Painted Her Nails

liked to look at them  
as she sat  
with other women,  
at lunch or book club,  
even at meetings of the board,  
sometimes holding them  
before her  
as they talked  
as if to say stop, stop,  
wouldn't  
you rather admire  
these perfect pink ovals  
than your ragged concerns  
about justice and truth.  
We, who had been beauty,  
do not mention  
the VOCs and DBPs  
the toluene and formaldehyde  
that make possible

our well-groomed claws.

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**Lois Marie Harrod's** 17th collection *Woman* was published by Blue Lyra in February 2020. Her *Nightmares of the Minor Poet* appeared in June 2016 from Five Oaks; her chapbook *And She Took the Heart* appeared in January 2016; *Fragments from the Biography of Nemesis* (Cherry Grove Press) and the chapbook *How Marlene Mae Longs for Truth* (Dancing Girl Press) appeared in 2013. A Dodge poet, she is published in literary journals and online ezines from *American Poetry Review* to *Zone 3*. She teaches at the Evergreen Forum in Princeton and at The College of New Jersey. Links to her online work