

# Sea of Lonely

I fly  
On the wings  
Of a libertine statue  
Through a  
Sea of Lonely  
Said the Madwoman  
In the attic  
Echoing the man who dared  
To leave his own signature  
On the celluloid fragments  
Of our own worst nightmares.  
Mock on, Tiresias and Cassandra,  
Scream on!  
Your poetry is beautiful  
Your obscenity ugly  
But I see only  
When I fly with you  
On the wings  
Of a libertine statue  
Through this  
Sea of Lonely.



Photo: © Nicole Burkart

**Josie McQuail**, now living in Cookeville, Tennessee, points out that poetry and madness, art and madness - or what the "sane" call "mad" - often go together. Janet Frame, William Blake, Vincent van Gogh - all flirted with madness in one way or another. Dr. McQuail is a Professor of English at a Tennessee state university and specializes in William Blake. Some of her poems will be published in the forthcoming *Rising from the Ashes: Poets on Loss*, edited by Marcie Sims.



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