

## THE MUSE

"you write" she said "with  
the same fever that you eat"  
"that's good" I said "I'll  
use it in a poem"

the muse can be booze  
the muse can be orgasm  
the muse can be music  
the muse can be silence  
the muse can be goddess  
the muse can be bitch  
the muse can be bastard  
the muse can be luck  
the muse can be crazy  
the muse can be promiscuous  
the muse can be faithful  
the muse can be nature  
the muse can be city  
the muse can be universe  
the muse can be everything  
the muse can be nothing

some poems come easy  
some poems come hard

## 3 MORE RUNS TO MAKE MY CENTURY

another 600-page hand-bound  
acid-free blank beauty  
ready for me: v. 98

I've been keeping a journal every day  
since June 28  
1975  
almost 20 years

smoking  
drinking  
writing  
drawing  
& all that  
that implies

I started it 5 weeks after my then lady  
was killed in a car accident  
it was creation  
or destruction  
& I chose creation  
pictures & poems  
to help me heal

I put everything in my journal  
the freedom of autobiographical art  
is  
awesome  
smithereen saga  
of my dingo  
man soul

#### HOW TO BECOME AN EXPATRIATE

if I hadn't met that Swedish girl  
in a bar in Pasadena  
I never would have married her  
& followed her to Stockholm

I don't speak Swedish  
I didn't like the 6 mo  
40 below zero winter  
not having the air-fare  
to get us back to California  
to try & salvage  
our shakey marriage  
we migrated to Australia  
with our baby boy

she left within a year  
she didn't like Sydney  
she didn't like L.A.  
she didn't like the sun  
she was homesick for  
those long freezing winters

that was 28 years ago  
I still live in Oz  
I still haven't the money  
to return to America  
& even if I did  
maybe I wouldn't go

I'm just an emotional expatriate  
torn between the land of his birth  
& the land of his salvation

#### KEEPING A JOURNAL

I painted a frog  
in my journal  
in a rectangle