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# Why I like Painters

William Pitt Root

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Why I Like Painters ·  
*William Pitt Root*

Morning air like salt  
braces an aspect  
    of the light  
painters adore,  
    who scorn  
the too-sweet blossomings  
of vegetation bright  
    along the paths  
they live their lives by.

This one chooses models  
he ignores for hours,  
    attacking  
his blank canvas  
    with still lives  
of jugs and sextants  
as he breathes in  
    odors from her body  
languishing across his couch.

He smiles and pays her  
generous praises  
    and the going rate  
as she leans down  
    smiling privately  
to gather her clothes,  
and dresses. "I want  
    to be reminded what  
I'm missing with this brush."

We spend the afternoon  
drinking on the bay,  
    discussing the active  
and passive voice, ionization  
    and light, the rates  
of precipitation for  
variously ground pigments,  
    cunnilingus and enlightenment  
in *The Yellow Book*.

At sunset we are speechless, afloat  
with our bottles and our thoughts,  
    when his wife, whose eyes  
are flecked with gold,  
    swims through the mirrored  
sky and climbs aboard, smiling.  
It is midnight as I write this.  
    Occasionally I glance  
toward the couch and nod.