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FREE DELIVERY AFTER 4:00 P.M.

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ARTS SOCIETY

*The following poem won first place in the Dal Arts Society
Contest for Vernon Provençal.*

Daphne

Dressed all in black and sitting alone in the shade of an oak
in the far corner of the public gardens, a venerable virgin
nods over an unfinished tapestry, her aged body sagging
against the trunk of the tree, her arms slipping down among
the entangled roots spreading out around her slumbering
body so that tree and woman become confused in a single
and inseparable image:

With your bark, blackened with age,
Cracked and curled about your trunk
Splitting at the waist with dryness
And swollen at the base with disease,
Varicose roots gnarled and rotting in mud,
Arthritic branches, clotted with crows,
Trembling in the wind,
Crooked fingers crippled and clawing
At the closeness of the sky,
Leaves, for the hundredth time,
Dyed dull red, yellow, but mostly brown,
Some branches already bare,
Leaves strewn across the ponds
Like broken strands of dead hair
Floating in a bath,
Unlucky victims of the cruel brush
And comb of Autumn's winds,
You await the approach of a winter
No spring will follow,
A hollow form haunted by a spirit
Half-senile to be so near,
In such late age,
The beautiful branches of a nearby sapling
Having this year come of age
Bursting with fresh buds in the spring,
Hungry roots sucking deeply at the earth,
Branches filling with spring sap
And bending gracefully down
To graze the tender shoots of grass
Sprouting beneath her boughs,
Leaves, tossed and teased by summer winds
Playfully caught in her topmost branches,
Falling like long lovely strands of silky hair
Down around the deep breasts
Of a young goddess wild and free,
Resting beside you now in drowsy silence,
Sleepily awaiting the deep and heavy snows
Of Winter.
Having come thus far
In the lives of women and of trees,
Embrace, if you can,
The purged and punished body slumbering
Among your roots,
Wilted with imprisonment and age,
And tell, O daughter of Peneus:
Are you happy to have escaped
The fate of one destined
To the desire of Apollo?

vlp january, 1981

Paintings

First Prize

Scott Radburn

Second Prize

Scott Radburn

Drawings

First Prize

Leslie MacNab

Second Prize

Leslie MacNab

Photography/ Black and White

Black and White

First Prize

Roland Haebler

Photography/ Colour

First Prize

Craig Carnell

Second Prize

Kevin Zimmer

Third Prize

Diane Smeltzer

