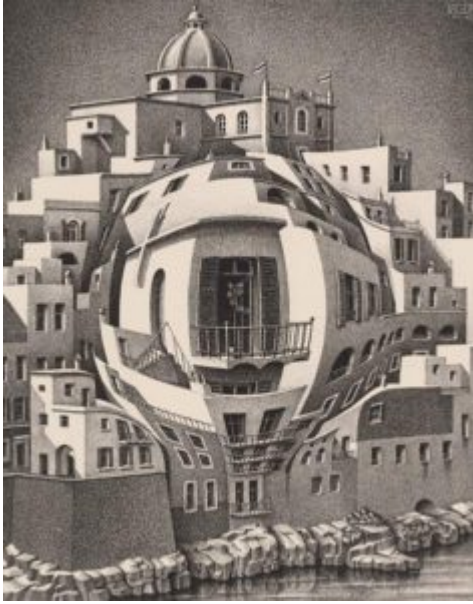


BLACKACKLE: Two Poems by R.D. Landau

written by R.D. Landau | March 15, 2019



The Splendor And Misery Of Bodies And Cities

My father falls asleep to the export of the American smile.
A homeless man lectures the air on the DNC.
“Everything is politics here,” my father smiles.

At the empty Women’s Art Museum, the security guard points at
Obama election artifacts: \$5 Lincoln with an embroidered afro.
He says 2008 the way my 11th grade history teacher said Weimar.

On Museum Mile, they are selling Make America Great Again onesies,
Washington Monument Snow globes and pentagon cookie cutters.
I am overcome with cramps and must sit down.

My father sips his cappuccino, erasing the smile carved in foam.
“This is the world we deserve,” says the barista.
“Well we don’t deserve it but...”

Some Questions

How does a city become a synonym for violence
Hiroshima, Orlando, Charleston?

Why do some cities get to keep their names
when I say Berlin, you don’t hear wall ?

Why do women change their name in this day and age
become their husbands or on occasion wives?

What is the name of this age
The Anthropocene, The Second Wave of Fascism, The Dithering?

What comes after
*new species of octopi, adapted for warmer climates, another cycle of
chaos-empire- chaos, silence?*

Image Credit: *Balcony*, M.C. Escher (1945)
