

Seattle City Council

Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Arts Committee Meeting
Tuesday, 2 P.M., September 20th, 2005

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Anna Maria Hong**

Today's poet is **Maggie Santolla**

Maggie Santolla is almost a Washington native, having lived in the area since she was five. She studied creative writing at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma and works as the marketing coordinator for a local architecture firm. Her work has appeared in Cranky Literary Journal.

Our Secret Road Trip

by Maggie Santolla

We left and didn't tell anyone.
I forgot even to tell the cat.

The rain covered our car
in clouds of mist the whole way there.

We wandered without knowing
where we were going. We visited

the library and took pictures of the
old paintings on the wall. We ate

at a sushi restaurant that smelled
to me like soap; to you, like Japan.

We went to Powell's and made lists
of things we want to read and felt

the covers of blank journals.
We went to a fancy new bar,

and a smokey dive bar.
Rented a cheap motel room and

held hands under the covers.
Had pancakes Sunday morning.

We came home and told our friends
last night we just watched a movie.

St. Mark's Greenbelt
by Maggie Santolla

A scattering of almost-snow
and whiskey on our breath,
you in high heels,
and the orangy-dark city midnight
make the trail behind St. Mark's Cathedral
a treacherous thing.

We stumble to the bottom,
to a chicken-wire foot bridge,
the quiet tumbling of a scrawny creek,
our hazy hot breath,
the back of your mittened hand
against my mouth.

New Great Ideas at Real Life Prices
by Maggie Santolla

You do one part; I do one part.
We do all we can to pretend
this isn't fleeting: your hand on
my hip, mine on your neck.
I won't even mention the hairpin
That's not mine in the carpet.
We tell ourselves, it's well worth
the effort, the freedom to change
our bedroom whenever we change
our mood. See how we keep
disappointing each other but
putting a new spin on it, like
this year's all-new catalog.

- end -