

LISA LAJEUNESSE

Model Theory

(If I were a Portrait Painter)

We met on a Monday
I'd spent the weekend
reading first-order logic
feverishly

our bodies
curved like question marks
about a proof of the Completeness theorem

the model
constructed inside the very language of the theory

symbols
came alive
writhed then leapt from the page

I looked up and breathed *that's wild*
he fell back as though a gale had blown past

Ours was never a courtship
but an exchange of
rare and precious gifts
between two royal palaces
no alliance sought

So I paint him
as Velasquez might
with my court as backdrop
the dignified greeting
the pretty bows and speeches
an emissary
bearing treasures that
surpassed my need