



LET THEM DRINK CHAMPAGNE
JESSICA HELEN LOPEZ, POET LAUREATE OF ALBUQUERQUE

Let her tower above all, fetishized ankle to full-fledged calf
Like a long sip of milky elixir
Mile-high struttin' and thigh muscles
become taught with the sweat of walking

Let her pound the pavement behooved and bejeweled with power
Dizzying heights
Fashionable vertigo
Attack of the 50 foot woman!

She will devour us all
crush underfoot like picnic ants
the plebeians
the proles and gentry
those who worship the flamboyant pedestal
the silk, the metal, the pearlescent accoutrements
the elevated physique of the ass

Let her be tower
skyscraper woman
ladder-high thighs

Let her be mystique
Dominatrix of the arched heel
Talon rouge of Versailles
The blood-footed courtesans
of the slaughterhouse district

Let her be Sun King and the flashy power of the Moulin
Let her be high-kicking and jutting rumpus
spine curved like an S
or the bowed back of a cat

She is Marie Antoinette sipping

champagne from a glass slipper
decadent wicked little thing

Freudians fear her
Avant-gardes adore her
Adulation imbedded in the spike of the heel
The rod, the spindle, the salacious stiletto

She is a twitching, bewitching feline
A platform goddess
She is gender-bending deity
David Bowie's glam-rock and lipstick red toes
Glossy pedicure and the hip-swinging Marilyn Monroe

The double bamboo of geisha girl
Thong between the cloven-footed hoof
rustle of paper-thin silk and the allure
of power eating power eating power

Here is my switchblade stiletto
This fishnet fission and friction
Pulp Fiction crimson
This thorn and rose diva

We have been elevated to look down upon the gods
closer evermore to the heavens

I am a couture creature
A razor-toothed mouth
The embellished erotic
of black latex
Fem-bot extraordinaire
Knee-high boot bondage

Let me be giantess
Let me be tower
Let her be tower
Amazonian tall
skyscraper woman
ladder-high thighs

Ginger Rogers dancing
mirror-image backwards and in heels

the duchess
the stripper
drag pride and killer queen

the everlasting
gravity-defying
empress
of the spindled heel

Jessica Helen Lopez is nationally recognized award winning slam poet. She is the author of three volumes of poetry and is a feature writer for 30 Poets under 30 by Muzzle magazine. Lopez is also an adjunct faculty member in the department of Chicana/Chicano Studies at the University of New Mexico. Lopez is the Poet in Residence at the Albuquerque Museum where she will be infusing poetry into the museum experience.