

Maria Zajkowski

The Higher Order & Other Poems

↳ THE HIGHER ORDER ↴

we are in love again
the exits are covered with entries
and what goes in alone comes out with a hand on fire

the future exists again
where for every excuse we make
is the tree under which we were excused

again we have again
the knife cuts into the same conversation
like last night into tomorrow

so again we are at an end
the legs of morning are close round your hips
and one breath sacrifices itself for

as again we ride into sunrise
through the difficult scar
of the archangel

and again we are deceived
by what is new on the horizon
though there are new horizons in every second step

it is once again the truth
that the unseen stranger will walk
around with a strangeness in her open arms

yes again we do not talk
like the time we talked in darkness
no we cannot talk in darkness like we can talk now

☞ALL WHEELS ARE PERFECT☞

The wheel inside a bird
The wheel of a plum
The wheel of a fall
Assistance
A kiss
A further noting
Of what has already been noted
But not stamped
The wheel of just us
That we have something to account for
The wheel of night
And your breath
That inflates where I want to go
Or begin
Without the right number

Nothing runs on nothing
Meet the world
The world thinks in circles

☞ARE WE DEATH☞

are we death now
can we hope at last
that this blue morning has become us
finally is there nothing to believe
coming after us
placing its steps in ours through the dew
free of the urging heart
free of the curse of hair and eyes
are we at last on the mountain
we have so long been under
the tunnel that was a song
is it over
the irritability of being ourselves
the plain fact of being dumb
are we at last over it
can we now be final
final like memory
final like stars
final like mornings
all over again

Author Bio

Maria Zajkowski's poetry has been published in journals around the world. Originating from New Zealand, over the last two decades Maria has been based in Australia. In 2001 she was funded by Arts Victoria and later in 2003 by the Australia Council of the Arts to write an as yet unpublished manuscript, 'From an island' which in 2007 was shortlisted for the Alec Bolton Award. Since then she has participated in several festivals, including the National Young Writers Festival, the Emerging Writers Festival and the Alphabet City Festival (Toronto).

Since 2005 she has facilitated creative writing groups. At the last three Emerging Writers Festivals, Maria hosted a Creative Writing Bootcamp, during which time she has become known for her challenging workshop style. Her poetry was shortlisted for the 2008 Newcastle Poetry Prize and the 2009 Bridport Prize (UK). Two suites of poems from her latest collection, 'The Ascendant' won both the 2011 and 2012 Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize. Maria Zajkowski lives, works and writes in Melbourne.

www.mariazajkowski.com

Citation: Zajkowski, M. 2012. 'The Higher Order & Other Poems'. *Polari Journal*, 6 (October 2012), www.polarijournal.com/resources/Zajkowski-Order.pdf (accessed <insert date>).