

GLEN DOWNIE

## Sexpresso

*Santiago*

Downtown they have crossbred  
the café & the peep show    Men pay  
to lean on a rail while women fetch  
coffee

High-heeled    in minis & low-cut blouses  
or chiffon-over-bustier    they sashay  
to & from the expresso machine  
bearing tiny cups  
smiling    making male small talk  
feel bigger

They don't dance or strip    There's  
no touching    They have only  
the same few steps in which  
to swivel the hips    give a toss  
of the head    a coy look    They refine  
the smallest motions down to  
microns of suggested intimacy    flit  
within a birdcage of allure

There are no chairs    Men come  
& go in minutes    No alcohol  
No food    There is only one hunger

The Ministry of Bitter Pleasures regulates  
how it looks from the street  
Mini-skirts: clear glass    Tinted if the style is  
boudoir    The customers are all business  
types    Their fingernails are clean    They assess  
the asses    hoping to get what they like  
When the waitress smiles    they smile    pretending  
the place has an ocean view & pie like Mom's  
They go because so few longings  
can be stirred with a coffee spoon