

NICOLA CAVENDISH & MARGUERITE WITVOET / The Art Hung Quietly

The art hung quietly for the better part of December
and the fire burned on inside her heart.

She felt the familiar thickness, something dark and heavy, an ancient memory
pressing down on her.

Swim, she thought, swim hard, and she left the door open behind her.

She pondered the chop of the lake, the bare trees, the grey sky dreaming
of azure.

She wished for moonlight but there was none.

From the shore she heard the piano begin again.

The house with its books and red carpets and overstuffed couches irritated her.

She looked at the lake.

She looked at the house.

She looked at the moonless sky.

She slipped out of her shoes and began to run, her bare arms stinging
with the cold and the blood coming up in the back of her throat.

She ran blindly, lungs searing, feet burning, as snow gave way to slippery ice and rock
underfoot.

She stumbled, nearly fell – then caught herself, keeping her furious pace
until she reached the ancient apricot trees.

She looked back at the house across the lake.

She thought of the painting.

She imagined it, waiting patiently for her, casting its cool blues and greens across the
room like a fresh sheet tossed over a bed.

Suddenly the desire to gaze upon the canvas overcame her.

She started back.

Beneath her feet the ground fell away.

She paused, picked up her shoes and stepped inside.

She closed the door behind her.

LISA WAINES, spoken voice

MARGUERITE WITVOET, vocals & midi keyboard

JOANNA CHAPMAN-SMITH, guitar & vocals

PEGGY LEE, cello

premiered at *song room 4* on Saturday, February 18th, 2006

song room CD | track eleven

