

# **THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Volume 2 | 1993

**Crescent Park**  
Marjorie Milligan

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

*The Prose Poem: An International Journal* is produced by  
The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress)  
for the Providence College Digital Commons.  
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/>

## **Marjorie Milligan**

### CRESCENT PARK

The man who was jealous of the salesmen's clothes built the River Boat out of wood salvaged from the roller coaster. He stocked shelves outdoors, at night, in a narrow alley in the city. It was lit with lanterns and cloth floated from poles above his head. He wanted her to tell him why wood screws are bought by number.

Thirty years after she walked by she hears that was not the house where he pushed his wife down the stairs. She must avoid the observatory at night... avoid the bald birdman, his elfen nakedness surrounded by fur, the telling of those little pink mounts, the small swellings in the palms of the hands.

She does it for the usual reasons, and then pretends to make a point. She counts with her tongue and excels in the water like the web-footed otterhound.

He's not the one she tells about baptism. He's the one she tells about fucking. It involves fins and rent, anyway. Cutting the pictures out of books. "Seek your level" she always says. Other names for current assets are: liquid, working, or quick.

The twentieth century handkerchief trick kept them going for a while.