

Petra F. Bagnardi

Breathing Marble

She stretched her slender arms towards the humming sunlight.
He contemplated the lifeless marble.
Salty pearls of sweat glistened upon her tense skin.
The snowy stone shifted beneath his dusty fingertips.
Her breath drummed a rhythm for her graceful footsteps.
The slab arched and stretched at the artist's request.
The dancer's full being pulsed, at last.
Later on, feeble candle flares trailed along
the perfect equilibrium of milky limbs,
as patrons marvelled at the sculptor's skill;
for he had coaxed soft flesh and flimsy cloth
from a piece of rock.

Poem inspired by Antonio Canova's sculpture, "Dancer".

Petra F. Bagnardi is a TV screenwriter, a theater playwright and actress and a poet. She was short-listed in the Enfield Poets' Twentieth Anniversary Poetry Competition, and her work was featured in *Masque & Spectacle Literary Journal*, *Punk Noir Magazine*, *Trouvaille Review*, *Black Poppy Review*, *Lothlorien Poetry Journal*, *Writing In A Woman's Voice*, *Poetica Review (Summer Edition 2021)* and *Call Me [Progress]* - the sixth Issue of the literary journal, *Call Me [Brackets]*. Writing as Petra March, she won several awards and honors. She is also a *Library Journal Self-e* Select author.