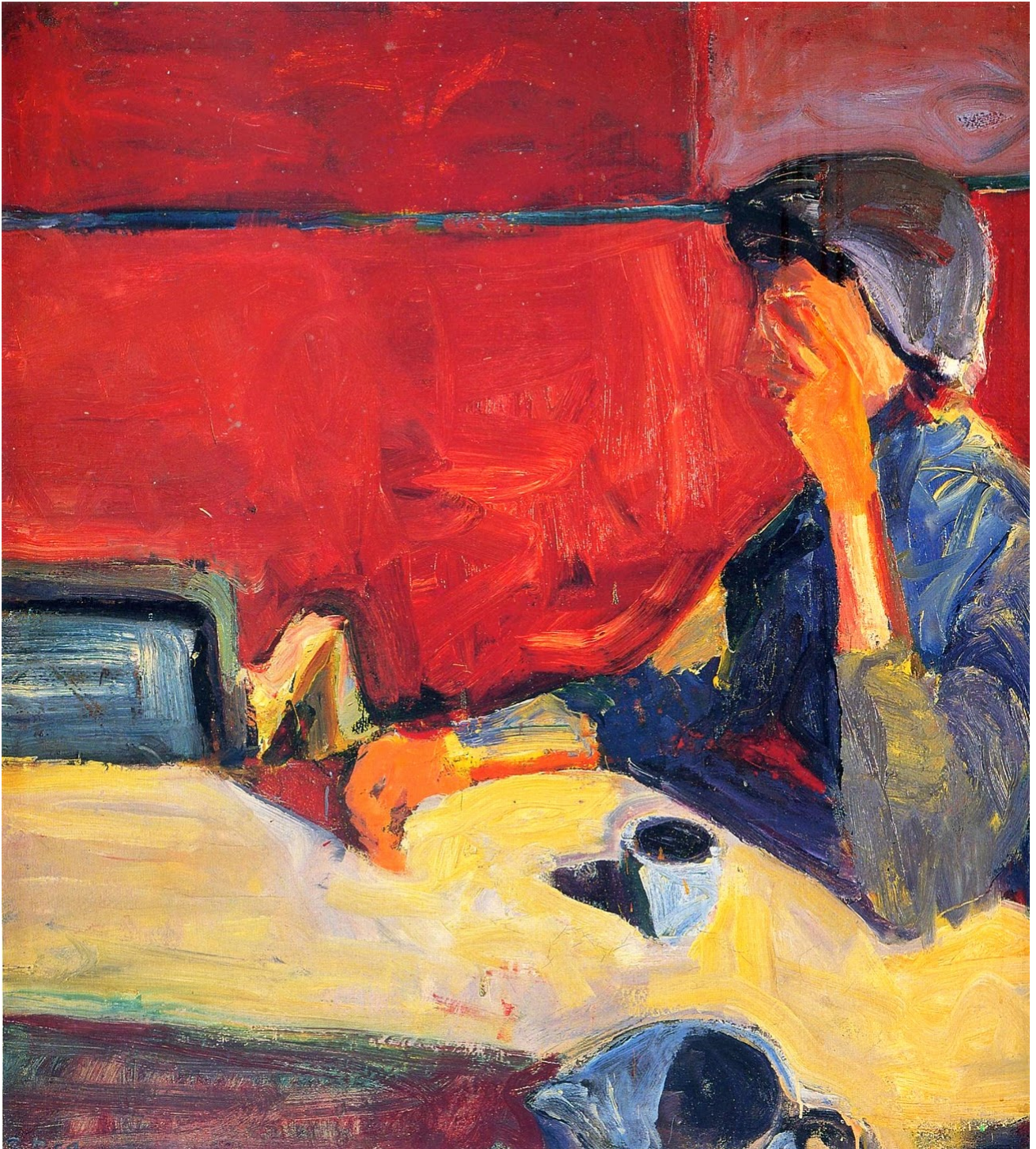


Lowball

by [Lois Marie Harrod](#) (July 2020)



Woman at Table in Strong Light, Richard Diebenkorn, 1959

Lowball

to toe-fall, palling as it
slipped my hand
in the muddle of the night,

old-fashioned whisky glass,
the scotch I wasn't drinking
just thirsty in the piddle

of my plight, seeking
for the first tumbler
in the cupboard, half-awake

glassy-eyed, until it hit, the blast,
lead crystal hard stuff rocks lass,
the stuff I never drink, heavy

splitting my middle toe, fiddle flow
riddle of the tired and trite,
and I wasn't drinking,

dry as a tough duck stricken

by a krait, and how it hurt,
that shot in the dark.

Today I'm limping.

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Lois Marie Harrod's 17th collection *Woman* was published by Blue Lyra in February 2020. Her *Nightmares of the Minor Poet* appeared in June 2016 from Five Oaks; her chapbook *And She Took the Heart* appeared in January 2016; *Fragments from the Biography of Nemesis* (Cherry Grove Press) and the chapbook *How Marlene Mae Longs for Truth* (Dancing Girl Press) appeared in 2013. A Dodge poet, she is published in literary journals and online ezines from *American Poetry Review* to *Zone 3*. She teaches at the Evergreen Forum in Princeton and at The College of New Jersey. Links to her online work