
July 1994

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Recommended Citation

Thomas, F Richard (1994) "Circumambulating Michelangelo's David," *Michigan Reading Journal*: Vol. 27 : Iss. 4 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/vol27/iss4/7>

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Circumambulating Michelangelo's David



POEM BY **F. RICHARD THOMAS**

Circumambulating David,
I think I *will* my movement and my pace,
my pause,
my look,
 and pace again.

But then at night,
 in a dream,
I see that David *is* Michelangelo,
who watches my each move and pace and pause,
and knows exactly where I'll pause
and look
 and pace
and look again.

What magic is this sleeping,
waking, slipping in and out of dreams?
What cosmic sleight-of-hand
makes us circle, wide-eyed, 'round realities
that circle us around?
What unseen sorcerer's fingers
slid the muscled stomach from the stone
to help us dream the light unleashed,
 the miracle,
 the common fire,
from which we birth,
and like the Michelangelos and angels,
rise to dance?

F. Richard Thomas is a teacher of reading and writing in the Department of American Thought and Language at Michigan State University. He is author of six collections of poetry; a novel, Prism: The Journal of John Fish; and several scholarly books.