

SCOTT NOEL

Sympathy for the Model II, 2014
Oil on linen, 54 x 60 in



COURTESY GROSS MCCLEAF GALLERY

CHARLES JENSEN

How Wives Should Undress in Front of Their Husbands

—a feature in *LIFE*
magazine, 1937

Have something baking.
Remember your husband works hard—he also wants to play hard.
Consider the lesson of the blue heron.

Establish good posture.
Make light conversation—about the weather, current events.
Think about England.

Begin after coffee and dessert.
Avoid direct eye contact—it can flummox your mate's libido.
Consider the lesson of the tawny vixen.

Think about politics and art.
Do not discuss your chores or what you watched on television.
Picture your body as a bank of fog.

Picture your body as cake.
Picture Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* or other classical nude.
Consider the lesson of the emperor penguin.

Open a dialogue with God.
Transcend the function of textiles by evolving beyond shame.
Picture your body as diagram.

Dissolve into his eyes and mouth.
If time, recite multiplication tables silently to yourself.
Consider the lesson of the free-range chicken.

You have been baking all day.
You are a treat he's dreamed of since waking.
Picture your body as an extension of his body.
Consider the lesson of the passenger pigeon.

Charles Jensen is the author of *The Nanopedia Quick-Reference Pocket Lexicon of Contemporary American Culture* (2012 MiPOESIAS Chapbook Series) and *The First Risk*, which was published in 2009 by Lethe Press and was a finalist for the 2010 Lambda Literary Award. His poetry has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Copper Nickel*, *Field*, *The Journal*, *New England Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*.