

The Dance

Antonio Criscimagna

Hardly have we begun to dance
when out of tune we trip.

The lonely caricature of a dead man's passion
gives us all something more
than a dead man
gives us a painting
of some fat ballerina
already dead
and that's enough to make me cry

Degas is alive
whose dead ballerina
is forever alive
in a museum of the living.

Hardly have we begun to dance
when out of tune we trip.

