Neuroscientist, in Love

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Artist's Statement

This poem was inspired by three of my greatest joys: neuroscience, comedy, and my partner. With a dose of humor, and an even healthier helping of neuroscientific reference and analogy, I chose to express my feelings for her in prose. The poem's lyrics are a bit tongue-in-cheek—but not to the extent of a frank hypoglossal palsy, as the underlying sentiment of affection prevails.

Neuroscientist, in love

If I were more poetic,
More articulate,
I would write you a poem
With no science in it

And so, here I am,
Fixed on empiric fact;
It was either the prose herein,
Or submitting an abstract –

But save charts and graphs,
It's difficult to describe this;
My second best try is
Methodically off-rhyming –

Perchance to potentiate
Pair bonding and passion;
A sentiment foretold
Of mirror neuron attraction –

Limbic in your presence,
Not bulbar, but tongue-tied,
Stirring Broca's aphasia,
And seizing all sulci

Of my left frontal lobe –
Gelastoc or drunken,
A sprightly burst projects
To my nucleus accumbens –

Is my love pre-motor,
Or do I have a say?
Organic, chance, or fated,
I hope the feeling stays –

Yet if I were more poetic
And considerably more aesthetic,
I would have written you a ballad
With an edge much more romantic

And, indeed, somewhat sappy,
But that simply is not me –
So I hope your brain's releasing
A healthy dose of dopamine.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

There are no relevant points to make with regard to compliance with ethical standards.

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