

**David Scronce**

## **Café Nicholson, 1949**

*On the photo by Karl Bissinger*

The woman carrying the tray, who might she be?  
Supercilious Cigarette is Tennessee,  
Golden Youth, staring vacantly, is Gore.  
Opposite stands Tanaquil, leaning forward.  
Two bottles of Chianti, glasses with lees  
Meander to the profile of a woman  
Who could be Louise Bogan,  
Or Jeanne Moreau if this were France,  
This bistro garden, tree-embraced.  
But who's the serving woman, smiling, dark faced,  
White serviette draped across the wrist  
That balances the tray, whose figure rephrases  
The vanishing point, this muse of artists' afternoons  
Who holds the whole tableau in place?