

NEIL PAECH

THE MONSTER MASK

claire's ten  
& brings out her monster mask  
to the lounge room  
to show it off

it has bulging round lumpy eyes  
protruding above a lengthy black nose  
that droops down loosely  
below its mouth

marianne jokes  
about its looking phallic  
& the balls above it  
posing as eyes

claire cries out to us to stop it  
as we burst out laughing  
& a burst dam of sensitivity  
rushes off to her room  
crying

denise has to console her

behind the closed door  
we joke about fun with freud & claire

marianne tells denise to tell her  
all monster masks should be funny  
& that it was a form of praise

she really means  
but doesn't say it  
all sex should be funny  
but it eats us alive

