

Ricardo Pau-Llosa

**Extreme Unction Man**

For once, he would have loved  
not to have sauce all over his shirt.  
Even when the meal was dryer

than a dog biscuit, he would manage  
to action-paint his Polo. This one time  
he thought about tempting the gods

of sauce and gravity,  
and would take this new woman  
to a Mexican restaurant way out

of town, far from his townhouse  
so he couldn't just make a quick dash home  
to change and catch that movie.

No, this time, he figured,  
the jinx could only be broken  
with courage, downright, bib-less

courage. Her online profile  
prompted him for daring  
and overcoming fears, and warned

against smokers and slobs.  
He'd win her with a tight-rope burrito  
above a guacamole net