

The Painter

Once upon a time, a
woman incised a bison
silhouette on a cave wall. Then,
she captured the likeness of Marie Antoinette,
befriended Degas and painted
Mother and Child (in a rowing boat).
She became famous for euphemistic floral canvases –
vaginas, in the minds of critics
(who, coincidentally, happened to be men).
Her advantages were set out:
she would be included in revised versions of history.
She had made her bed, but
she would not lie in it.