



**Father & Sons**  
Home Improvement II

**Page 151:**

Tiziana La Melia, *Corsetless Verse*, 2021, watercolour on paper, 28 x 38 cm. Photo by Natasha Katedralis.

**Page 152:**

Tiziana La Melia, *Untitled*, 2019, drawings from notebook.

The slur “ampersand” (from “and per se and”) is a ligature tracing back to the first century A.D., in which the letters “E” and “T” (or “et,” meaning “and”) were written together in the old Roman cursive. Once corrupted, the efficacy of these marks came to signify, in intimacies—be in business or marriage—the tightness of a union, as well as collaboration, trust, and commitment between two people. The couplets, considered here, are incorporated and dis-incorporated.

A longer version of this poem was commissioned for the 2019 exhibition *Schulz & Weise* at W19, Amsterdam. The poem also cites a personalized psychic audio recording by Rosemary Taylor from December 28, 2020.

## Lace Embrace

The psychic ampersand refers  
of energy  
reshaped,  
you're literally laced into this thing where you  
let's say you are in a chair, and one leg is missing

trust  
fall  
go  
shifting  
contorting  
sat in that contortion,  
out  
straighten yourself  
try  
again  
Lace

### *Corsetless verse*

relax and bat  
and bows swish  
down like lavish  
pony tails  
ribs exhale and with  
head erect / I look down  
to sud and dew you  
tie  
down  
here

A body of ampersands . . .  
married, above the crossroads,  
but if he is a *Gianni* then  
I relate & re-binding the

to the squeezing  
you know  
think of those waist trainers  
train your waist into being small  
could you still sit on that chair?  
try  
over  
over  
my weight over to one side  
into a position  
snap

out  
balance  
swell.  
embrace  
whipped with a ribbon  
when I was young  
foolish / I loved Siggie & Gerri  
you drew a large cock  
on a gingham cloth  
and like the clock  
it will shape me  
to speak in season and  
forever

cinched waists with satin sashes  
above belly in flight  
exaggeratingly accommodatingly

&



