

THE ELLAD

I've so enjoyed ELLA again this year
The conclave of the brainiacs, the congress of the aspiring
Each year I look forward with joy and anticipation
Parking at TIMM and a spring walk to ED North
A class there, then a jog to ECHA for the next
Lunch at the SUB, or the HUB, or maybe a swim at the VVC
Then back to class for the afternoon
It's one of the highlights of my year

What I do not look forward to is the ELLAD
Built of grey steel tube, granite-hard plastics, wood and Formica; an
expression of ergonomics it is not
It was designed in another time, for another generation, not intended to
cradle

You approach the ELLAD cautiously, with trepidation, from the front
After a pause and a sigh, you descend slowly in a kind of pirouette, you
must twist, then maneuver in reverse between the upper and lower
levels
If you're a wee grandmother, as are most, this is not such a feat and you
will likely arrive gently
But be you a little more ample, however, say a six foot, 200 pound plus
grandpa, then the story changes
The rotation may be less graceful, and you may land in a more startling
fashion, causing heads to turn
This can all be managed, now and again, without injury, and what
usually follows is 70 minutes of wonder
Then, of course, you must arrange your departure
If you can manage to disentangle yourself from the ELLA Desk without
dragging it half way across the classroom, you are surely a student of
the arts.

Michel Lamoureux, ELLA 2017