



PROJECT MUSE®

---

## Piercing One Ear

Willa Schneberg

Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal, Volume 11, Number 1, Spring 2006,  
pp. 75-76 (Article)

Published by Bridges Association

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/brd.2006.0025>



➔ *For additional information about this article*

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/195422>



# P

## WILLA SCHNEBERG

### IERCING ONE EAR

That self important Portland *momzer*,  
the nose and throat man  
with the porcelain Chinese urns.  
Where does he think he is on Park Avenue?  
He thought he could show up  
the New York doctors  
and make me dine again. At Bishop Morris,  
I too would hold a glass of water  
to my lips and swallow  
just like the other *alte kakers*.

He sent me for a cat scan  
and got my hopes up,

but the bridge between the pharynx  
and my gullet has been blown-up.  
No Army Corpse of Engineers  
will come to the rescue.

Food can't leap from one side  
to the other. Perhaps Dr. Botox  
thought he could string a hammock.

I was always a sucker  
for suspension bridges  
how their sides raise up to the sky  
and seamlessly remerge.

For my consolation prize  
the great man repierced my left ear.  
It closed up from all the aggravation.  
I appreciate symmetry.  
With two holes  
I can wear earrings again.  
Tomorrow I'll model  
the blue-green stone ones  
my daughter brought from Jerusalem.

## NOTES

*momzer*: Yiddish for “bastard”

*alte kakers*: Yiddish expression meaning something like “old farts”