

NIKKI GIOVANNI

i suppose living  
 in a materialistic society  
 luxury  
 to some would be having  
 5 more than what you need

living in an electronic age seeing  
 the whole world by  
 pushing a button  
 the *nth* degree might  
 perhaps be  
 adequately represented  
 by having  
 10 someone there to push  
 the buttons for you

i have thought if only  
 i could become rich and famous  
 i would  
 live luxuriously in new york  
 knowing  
 15 famous people eating  
 in expensive restaurants calling  
 long distance anytime i want

but you held me  
 one evening and now i know  
 20 the ultimate luxury  
 of your love



*Seated Man* (1922), Jacques Lipchitz. Bronze, 20½" × 10½" × 10". Copyright © Estate of Jacques Lipchitz/Licensed by VAGA, New York/Marlborough Gallery, New York.