

**Juliette Blightman**

*an hour*

January 22 – February 20, 2010

*Ave Maria-*

*Mothers of America*

*let your kids go to the movies!  
get them out of the house so they won't  
know what you're up to  
it's true that fresh air is good for the body  
but what about the soul  
that grows in darkness, embossed by  
silvery images  
and when you grow old as grow old you  
must  
they won't hate you  
they won't criticize you they won't know  
they'll be in some glamorous country  
they first saw on a Saturday afternoon or  
playing hookey  
they may even be grateful to you  
for their first sexual experience  
which only cost you a quarter  
and didn't upset the peaceful home  
they will know where candy bars come from  
and gratuitous bags of popcorn  
as gratuitous as leaving the movie before it's over  
with a pleasant stranger whose apartment is  
in the Heaven on Earth Bldg  
near the Williamsburg Bridge  
oh mothers you will have made the little tykes  
so happy because if nobody does pick them up in the movies  
they won't know the difference  
and if somebody does it'll be sheer gravy  
and they'll have been truly entertained either way  
instead of hanging around the yard  
or up in their room hating you  
prematurely since you won't have done anything  
horribly mean yet  
except keeping them from the darker joys  
it's unforgivable the latter  
so don't blame me if you won't take this advice  
and the family breaks up  
and your children grow old and blind  
in front of a TV set  
seeing  
movies you wouldn't let them see when  
they were young  
-Frank O'Hara*