

Williams, The Dance

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The Dance

William Carlos Williams

In Brueghel's great picture, The Kermess, the dancers go round, they go round and around, the squeal and the blare and the tweedle of bagpipes, a bugle and fiddles tipping their bellies (round as the thick-sided glasses whose wash they impound) their hips and their bellies off balance to turn them. Kicking and rolling about the Fair Grounds, swinging their butts, those shanks must be sound to bear up under such rollicking measures, prance as they dance in Brueghel's great picture, The Kermess.

Pieter Brueghel, Kermesse (1567-8)

Oil on canvas, approximately 45 inches x 64.5 inches. Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

