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## Maria

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## ***Maria***

Alexis Smith

you were named after the painter, alphonse maria mucha  
*the seasons, madonna of the lilies,*  
the plural form of the latin word for craters in the moon  
*mare tranquillitatis, mare serenitatis,*  
johnny mathis singing west side story  
*maria maria, say it loud*  
the woman the nuns sing of in the sound of music  
*how do you hold a moonbeam*  
the hebrew word for  
*wished-for*  
the painter, your mother, who paints only in watercolor  
*who paints only*  
the sea.