

"Words' Worth" Poetry Readings

Poets at the Culture, Arts, and Parks Committee of the Seattle City Council.

the motion that ends the world by Leonard L. Tews

he sits in the food court
his baseball cap on the table
his forearms blotchy with liver spots
a used kleenex in his shirt pocket
supp-hose dangles from his pant leg
he has finished his apple turnover
and dark-roasted drip
the bump and whine of backstreet boys
bounce from gap pants
carved african figures
videotapes
and the restless stainless steel
of the escalators of broadway market ascending to
the travel agency on the second floor
he reads an article about freddy garcia
the twenty-four year old rookie from venezuala
there's a picture of freddy
clear-eyed in a broad stance
throwing his first shut-out in the major leagues
with eyes just as brown and passionate
he watches pretty girls pass
in filmy skirts and tattoos
and remembers when he wasn't invisible
when girls watched him in a dry season
in solid idaho and sulfur butterflies
flew beneath the bleachers
he stood at the plate with his bat held high
waiting for the next fast ball
he loved the order of the game
the nine innings
an umpire who made the calls
now order is failing
butterflies dipsy-doodle across
the outfield in dizzying dabs
of yellow lighting up sunflowers and
goldenrod past the travel agency
out the skylight
they fly in a motion that ends the world

woman and her yorkshire by Leonard L. Tews

it isn't gluttony
that holds her here
she could be gone tomorrow
so thin and disjointed
like a marionette
all wrists and knees

head bobbing in her wool cap
feet seem to dangle
just touch the ground
she smokes
draws in the stench
deep like oxygen
her other hand is attached
by a red leather leash to
her little dog
who trots lightly along broadway
smug in his hand-knit sweater
except for the terrier
she's always alone
I've never seen her high
so what force pulls her to earth
the cigarettes and yorkshire I suppose
there's mooring there
she loves cigarettes and him
and he loves her
even the consequences
of a shadow on her x-rays
won't break these bonds
they pull her back
again

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