

Three poems

*John F. Sherry, Jr.**One Tuna Caught this Day in Diamant*

"Pas des yeux!"
 The withered scold
 In arid voice as parched
 As her wise skin
 Cuts through chorales of frugal wives,
 Strains to conduct
 In cadence kinder to her purse,
 (Mindful of unhaggled mangoes,
 Okra, cane)
 The dull cleaver,
 Thumbs already on the scales,
 To slow the beats per measure
 Slapped down on her cleft fish,
 Rapped smart as dominoes
 On a weathered barrelhead.
 Quivered gill slits seal in the sun.
 Unwanted eyes cloud quickly
 To their stock fate.
 The bargaining beguine resumes
 At the next beached boat.
 His tuna parsed
 Among the most insistent,
 The fisher turns to
 Mending nets.

market music

i've felt mick
 shill for sympathy
 before first light
 in oude markt
 in louvain
 at decibels that make
 a belgian endive
 vendor wilt
 a ululating elvis
 mourn blue christmas
 in chatuchak
 in hot bangkok october
 threatening to distract
 the earnest dance step
 of a thai boy sweating
 to an asian ice baby
 in a neighboring
 stall
 the technopulse of
 akihabara
 that goads the shinjunrui
 to retroritual
 in harajuku
 before their outraged
 elders
 and hammer pound the zapotecs
 in a oaxacan zocalo
 where girls too young
 and tired to dance
 hawk chiclets
 with their marble
 rabbits
 each market
 has a music
 beyond the gold coast
 on the miracle mile
 the grounded lyric
 rhythm tone and beat
 of petty produce
 penny capital
 locked in a jewel box
 saved in shrinkwrapped skin
 mark time until
 the sale

POETRY AND REPRESENTATION

hump flute

if i see kokopelli dance
 through one more fucking coffee shop
in one more midwest campus town
 across a fissured plaster wall
bereft of choreography
 beyond a miles davis tape
autoreversed eternally
 i might have to foreswear caffeine
and seek serenity somewhere
 less aromatic and intense

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