

## A Small House on a Short Street

Its foundation walls re-cemented  
a re-drawn map of nations  
a renewed sense of solidity

While nearby  
young bamboo is already  
reshaping the stone wall  
of its containment

## An Empty Green Trash Barrel

Its mouth open to the sky  
a fat hungry baby bird  
with no mother in sight

A median island jungle thick  
in a fast river of asphalt

Across from a park's parking lot  
with trucks of workers off the job  
or on the job and off somewhere

## A Ball Park in the Early Afternoon

The rounded infield  
rimmed by green grass  
ready for play

Nearby a basketball court  
left to its own geometry

Across the road steps  
climb the side of the hill

Until one arrives at the top  
and then the same steps  
run down the side  
of the same hill

## A Pharmacy on a Hill

A repository of wants and needs  
like a bank or an academy

A library of ways to feel better  
when one is feeling worse

## Green Zippered Bags

Around the base of trees a marsupial pouch  
for young siblings just out of the belly  
a red metal sculpture for a convenient nanny

A flowering bush its petals wilted and seared  
by the heat of the sun its fragrance gone  
but something lingers in the air  
the homeopathy of green

## Half a Stump

At eye level above a retaining wall  
the vaulted entrance to a cave  
or a natural amphitheatre  
for one dancing aphid  
suspended by a thread  
and a wandering ant  
practicing their craft

A green Buddha's head  
up from neglected steps  
at the top of a grassy path  
its regal disinterest as inviting  
as climbing steps to an empty yard

## A Famous Inn

On a high remove  
accessible to those who  
come on foot or by car

With or without envy of the guests  
of theirs or someone else's ease

Visitors to grandeur can take away  
what's theirs to take and leave the rest  
for another day

## An Apartment Complex

Amidst grand homes  
on the same thoroughfare  
under the same trees  
under the same sky

A garden lamp of metal petals  
the bowl of a flower a bell  
to ring out a warning  
or light the way

## A Groomed Meadow

A course beneath hills of green  
along come men with narrow clubs  
to urge a ball to its temporary home

Each one dressed in the gentle service  
of a bright uniform of soft pastels

A bike lane next to the green  
while across the road roofers stand  
shirtless in the afternoon heat

Houses like English country homes  
an ocean away from England  
the roadway thick with cars  
from all over the world

## A Trampoline in the Yard

An older home with columns  
to define its entry  
a plexiglass door to protect  
a wooden door with oval glass

Rooftop balconies on both  
ends of the house

A ceramic cat on the lawn  
with real crows

## At the Corner

Trees like guardians  
to the divided road

Masters of themselves  
across from a tiny sign

*Please clean up  
after your pet*

A cartoon man  
kneeling  
behind his dog

## An Office Building in the Trees

### *Special Needs Access*

up the steps

around the tree

over the roots

down the narrow path

over the slanted stone slab

around back

Near a community center

next to a gas station

Across from a path that leads deep  
into the nearly remote unknown

Wine Tasting

Grill and Pub

Wedding Designs

Hypertension Treatment

Interior Exterior Credit Union

*Space Available*

*Do Not Enter*

Part of a pole lies at the feet  
of its standing companions

## The Corner of a Brick Building

That once was  
and is no more

The final tribute  
to a structure  
razed  
in a time unknown

Nearly buried  
still exposed  
like a nose  
above water

## A Sidewalk Café

Beside the busy street  
like spectator stands  
beside a speedway

Tranquility  
in the face of danger

A frantic pace in the face  
of tranquility

## Scraps of Debris

Beside the road  
a tree's skin  
flaked and peeling

Cars and trucks  
nearby on the freeway  
in a flow as if programmed

The roar and wind  
the merging rivers  
of sound and motion

## Against the Sky

A wall of windows  
like the openings  
for cave dwellers  
giant birds

Curtains and lamps  
in every recess

Homes for those  
away from home

On the fly  
and burrowed in

## A Brick Walkway

White picket fence colonial houses  
in a neighborhood of healers and menders

Vendors and builders of health and well-being  
therapists and dentists realtors and architects  
lawyers and counselors of the mind and body

A stone bench warmed by the sun  
as if the wall had taken a break from  
being a wall and became something else

For those who need a rest  
or a place in the sun

## Working Neighbors

Two men mow their lawns  
across the street from each other

Their neighbor waters her plants  
in red pants a bold contrast  
to her yellow sweater  
and even yellower blouse

A small dog chirps its warning barks  
wind chimes ring out on a small porch

## A Bathtub

Filled with flowers  
a soccer ball beside it  
a contented child

A tire tied to a rope  
hung from a tree  
for a swing

A man spades the ground  
next to the sidewalk  
his small girl asks  
*Why Daddy?*

## Squealing Brakes

Like a flock of birds  
anxious for direction

The backsides  
of larger houses  
high above the street

While below the same street  
a smaller house has a grass drive  
down to the stream that runs  
behind and below the row

## A Long Row

Towering street lamps  
a hotel's entryway  
like an esplanade

Next to the famous  
writer's memorial home

A porch of ten rockers  
a Greek chorus

A porch swing sways  
in the slightest breeze

## A Giant Crane

Hovers above  
the county court house

A bridge from nowhere  
to the roof of somewhere else

A brick sidewalk  
gone wavy over the years  
on top of spreading roots

Red umbrellas rise above  
gleaming silver tables  
gleaming silver chairs  
of an arcade's café

## A Statue of a Small Girl

About to drink water  
from a horse's mouth

Another horse's mouth  
on the opposite side  
of the lamppost waits  
above its empty trough

An obelisk stands  
next to an overflowing  
circle of water

## Once a Library

An art museum an angel  
with a milky mustache  
and white tears

Thick burnished metal benches  
their convex curves comfortable  
more than one might imagine

Across the plaza  
two bronze turkeys  
and two bronze pigs  
kids climb on

## Three Sidewalk Cafés

On a cloudy day  
busy with tourists  
and locals alike

A golden retriever  
with his own bowl  
two bearded men  
on a bench

*Let's cross here*  
a father tells his family  
to the Education Arts  
and Science Center  
now a home for  
the performing arts

## Signs on the Street

*Please no smoking on the steps*

*Please use front door*

*We do not seat incomplete parties*

*Welcome*

In a collectors' store

a picture of James Dean

and the headline

*Titanic Sinks*

*1500 Die*

In the store next door

a vase of ballet slippers

## A Top Hat Gloves and Cane

On a bench  
wet from the rain

An old sign on the side  
of a new emporium  
“5 10 25 Cent Store”

A photo of the city  
seventy years ago

Then as now  
the street crowded  
with shoppers

## Traffic Patterns

A man stops his bike  
a row of trucks  
a woman walks  
and talks on her cell

A man in a suit walks briskly  
from an attorney's office

A woman in pearls  
waits at the light

An ornate façade  
once a cafeteria

## A Drumming Circle

A man hunched over the paper  
on a bench in a downtown park  
that the drummers crowd  
on Friday nights

Pigeons pick at the bricks  
clean themselves  
in a puddle of water

At the corner of the park  
a twisted silver sculpture  
competes for comparison  
with a silver hot dog cart

## A Wine Shop

A sign made of corks  
the window wells  
filled with corks  
a bottle of corks  
boxes of corks

*Now Serving  
Wine by the Glass*

*A Public Service Building  
now says Self Help*

## A Wig Store and Boutique

Cops in yellow shirts and shorts  
cheerleaders for citizenship

A long banner reads  
*Local Organic Sustainable*  
as copper canopies shade  
the display windows

Small art galleries a soda fountain  
a police station like any other  
shop on the street

## Metal Vines

Twine across the face  
of a place for lease

A fiddler his case open  
a parked truck its reefer running

A man at the feet of metal women  
smokes a cigarette listens to the music

An author will discuss his book  
tonight at the bookstore

## In the Courthouse Plaza

Children play scream  
and shout in the fountain  
a broken silver snake slithers  
high across rows of columns  
a parent on a blanket says  
*Zachary your grandmother  
is right there*

A boy holds his shirt  
over the sudden spurt  
the city building hovers  
behind it all

## At the Head of the Street

A fire truck waits its call  
while in a hidden patio  
off the street  
a red rebar rhinoceros  
charges forever in place

Cornucopias mark  
the old city market

An historic drug store  
a cultural center  
a drum store next  
to a center for massage

## A Pair of Street Scenes

A mural of a street  
on the side of the street

Movie marquee art gallery  
a double-decker bus  
serves coffee and desserts  
a yoga spot above a bakery

A long ochre wall  
narrows to the ground  
next to an excavated city block  
where workers walk the foundation

## A Street of Churches

A church a church  
on a street called Church  
an iron gate with a tiny chain

Painted on the pavement  
MILL AND PAVE  
THE FULL WIDTH

A church and another church  
a gray Great Dane on a leash

a banjo player plays for cash  
at the head of the street

## Downtown Crossroads

*Local Job Listings* below a stone wall  
like pebble snow in a blinding storm  
chess players sit looking for a game

A young cop in a black uniform  
and black glasses seems posed  
a noble statue with purpose

An optical illusion embedded in the walk  
a man selling lemonade from a cart

## Times Change

Below a department store sign  
vegetarian mermaids arts and shoes  
writing utensils lights and vision

Karma advertised  
*a funky way to live*  
a green space alien  
a costume shop

A parking cop  
on his four wheel buggy  
takes a photo of a shiny  
black motorcycle  
a new ticket  
attached to the tank

## Indoor Outdoor

Sidewalk beer soup and salad  
Saturday street scene *Closed*  
*on Tuesdays Seat Yourself*

A wire nest signifies a sleep center  
also sells organic cotton bras  
A t-shirt shop like an art gallery

Enormous glossy wooden doors  
open and close to a private interior

A mannequin with no pants  
vaguely female vaguely male

## An Indian Restaurant

A Mexican restaurant

a tea room

a gravel parking lot

a butterfly mural

a novelty shop

a record shop

a Japanese restaurant

A man carries a water bottle

like a man carries a beer bottle

as he crosses against the light

## A Vegetarian Café

Big windows above the bandstand  
above the crowd in the street below

Hundreds mingle drink and eat  
dance and listen to the music

A garage door displays the face  
of a Native American in garish color  
surveying the street fair party

A dj introduces the next band  
the sun raises the temperature  
the ice cream stand has a long line

## A Circular Saw

In the middle of the alley  
paint buckets by a door  
a piano painted green

An extension ladder on its side  
motor bikes motorcycles  
parked against the alley walls

Graffiti at the end of the alley  
air conditioners on a fire escape  
a bank of meters

Water pours from  
a small hose in the wall

A Wine Bar

*Antique Shades*

*Gourmet Cookies*

kitche on the sidewalk

CLOTHING OPTIONAL

BEYOND THIS POINT

A sunny café with umbrellas  
on every table hippies lounge  
in the shade of an empty store  
flutes and hula hoops  
fresh juice and smoothies  
peace love and noodles  
a laughing man on the phone  
with nothing to say

## At the Mall

Recorded music  
a sweep of carpet  
a large chain bookstore  
with comfy armchairs  
nearly every conceivable  
or desirable book

A chain café inside the store  
with chairs by the window  
that overlook the parking lot  
and the mountains beyond

Escalators in the middle  
of a wide atrium a bank  
of wooden doors

## In Bungee Seats

Kids bounce toward the ceiling  
flip and twirl hang on and let go  
they laugh at each other  
then they laugh together

First the harness then the trampoline  
then a kind of flight between clothing stores

A small girl squeals in pure delight  
at the height of her flight

## Salons and Shoes

Jewelers and beachwear  
a laser clinic hats and bags  
*Emergency Defibrillator*  
massage chairs and makeup  
toys that fly and teddy bears  
sportswear next to ear-piercing

Shades and smokes fashionable underwear  
cell phone kiosks body work and glasses  
brides and maternity perfume and fotos

Free samples in the food court  
ice cream coffee and diamonds

## Two Chairs

In the middle of a ivory  
expanse of floor like a beach

Families shopping together  
a guard in a white shirt  
black trooper hat  
workers with badges  
ever-present music  
the popular sounds  
of several generations

Two girls arm in arm  
a man adjusts his baggy shirt  
the old and young making a purchase  
or simply wiling away the day

## Botanical Gardens

*No dogs or pets  
no bike riding  
stay on established paths  
do not climb trees  
the grounds  
are closed at dusk*

A storm sewer manhole  
in the middle of the path  
a double-door shed for the gardeners  
a round table with curved benches  
giant hands hold a watering can  
above a lily pond

## Parked by the Creek

A riding mower sits near  
a roped-off hillside  
of heavy stones  
called a fragile plant habitat

A wooden bench overlooks a stream  
a small sign *Streambank Restoration*

Walkways down to the rocky shore  
a footbridge above a clear pool  
a plank fence along a wide footpath  
under the green canopy of summer

## Barefoot

Waders leave their belongings  
behind near Bigleaf Storax  
from the Storax family  
beside stacks of stones  
like stairs to a vertical slab  
a sculpture or unfinished face  
steps rise past Allegany Live-for-ever

A young woman lies in the sun  
on a rock shelf in the stream  
next to a fallen tree  
both nearly stripped  
of their foliage

## A Birdhouse

Empty on its pole but for spider webs  
a tree stands alone in a cultivated glen

A Narrow Blade Fern  
and American Hazelnut  
A wooden path a dirt path  
wooden steps a gravel path  
past Fly Poison and Devil's-bit  
past Alumroot and Starwort  
past a stone hut a tiny barred  
window like a jail in the woods  
past Turks-cap Lily  
to a log cabin dedicated  
to a local author

## A Squirrel Hesitates

Leaps to a tree runs up a branch  
stops and looks clings to a trunk  
leaps again and runs away

Above Bird-on-a-wing  
and Yellow Lady's-slipper  
above Sweet White Trillium  
and the Partridge Berry

Above a rock in the path  
the earthworks remnants  
of a Civil War battle

## An Island in the Path

A prominent stone  
cut by its own design  
when the human plan  
is the architecture  
of rearrangement

Here is the art of being seen  
when what's shown is set apart from  
the natural a pamphlet in the path  
is a fallen leaf of literature

## Crossed Tíre-Tracks

A colossal starfish  
carved in the earth  
for the eyes of the gods

The city garden  
below the university  
with pavilions for groups  
and private benches  
for individuals

Near Devil's Walking Stick  
its prickly limbs accessible  
to insects  
and the occasional  
brave or foolish bird

## For Sale For Show

In downtown shops  
glass wax metal clay  
along the street  
bicycles chained in a row

By the library a sign  
for local chow-chow  
on marble rye

Dancing statues  
by the Civic Center  
a paper sign says  
*Roller Derby Tonight*

## A Blue and Yellow Fire Hydrant

Nearby basilica windows open  
to the distant mountain range  
potted geraniums American Flag  
in a parking attendant's hut  
a hotel named for a color  
a basement barber shop below  
residential community for seniors

An ornate arcade guarded by  
winged lions that show their teeth  
they growl steadfast and perpetual

## A Colonnaded Row of Shops

Rare coins hair design optometrist  
a computer institute gallery realtor  
copy shop loading dock parking

A wine shop with tables on the sidewalk  
yellow cloths clipped at the corners

Shaded artisan stalls  
more shops on the inside

## Racks of Colorful Dresses

Steps down between buildings  
past teenage smokers  
a climbing wall  
beside a parking garage  
a narrow curved street  
a sidewalk café  
an orange wall  
a green wall  
a narrow doorway  
for the dispensing  
of maps and tickets

A duo guitar and spoons  
Camptown racetrack  
five miles long

## A Building like a Ship

At a slip at the dock  
men with a rig clean a bank  
a sleek black motorcycle  
like a flying fish

An ominous black sculpture  
at the federal office building  
reflected in dark windows  
a muffler and brake shop  
a row of painted chairs  
outside a dance club

## A Hoot Owl in the Quiet Afternoon

A handwritten sign  
*Remembering our friend  
and brother who died  
too young*

On a neglected wall  
a mural of the city  
half on fire half under water  
flowers blooming leaders smiling

An old paint spill  
runs constantly  
indelibly  
into the gutter

## Dangerous Building

*Do not enter this building it is unsafe  
and especially dangerous to life*

On a sheet of particulars  
options for why left unchecked

Another building sits empty  
between a thriving bike shop  
and a busy restaurant bar  
with old kegs for planters  
a bean bag game for adults  
wooden blocks for kids and  
a wall painted white for movies

## Transit Center

A bus station  
a train station with no tracks  
a human services center  
across from the post office  
*We Deliver For You*  
a row of blue boxes  
boxes of green and orange  
blue and white black and blue  
green and yellow black and yellow  
brown and yellow white and yellow  
white and blue red and blue

A man with shoes too big for his feet  
like a young and serious circus clown

## A Lavender Tour Bus

Powered by diesel  
with brocade trim  
around the windows  
thirty laughing riders

A man carries a tool bag  
along a faded purple wall  
a tattoo parlor its wares  
ancient and modern a fan  
in the window of a gallery  
a white-faced man in white  
a statue with a cream guitar  
a trumpet player leans against  
the wall the sidewalk for his stage

## Yellow Police Tape

Marks the perimeter  
of a parking lot carnival

In the day-time light  
all the rides are still  
the ferris wheel seats  
rock gently in the heat

A boxing ring a red and yellow  
striped tent a merry-go-round going  
nowhere a fun house ready for fun

Cotton candy caramel apples  
popcorn stands not yet open  
bright colors even brighter  
in the bright sun

## The Super-Slide

A launching pad with no rocket  
caterpillar ride on a painted branch

Funnel cakes await  
as workers prepare the rides  
bumper cars at peace  
porta-potties in a row

*You must be the boss* says a roustabout  
smoking a cigarette to a passing poet  
who says *Wouldn't that be nice no I'm not*

*Oh* the carny says and sits back down  
on his quiet ride

## An Historic Village

Stores cafés a giant tea cup  
by a potted plant

A self-described famous painter  
in a gallery dedicated to his art  
drive-thru banking on the square  
wooden benches nearby  
donated by The Garden Club

Cactus and corn by the sidewalk  
and on the corner a carved stone  
commemorates the founding  
of the county in 1792

## A Shopping Center

A small city or movie set  
called Business Town

Vendors under square white tents  
on the grassy median offer fruits  
veggies chocolates jewelry

Black benches gleam in the sun  
a man in a flag shirt trades invoices  
with a man in dark glasses next to  
an electric vehicle charging station  
A multiplex cinema with few customers  
in line at the box office

## A New Row of Old Houses

Decorative mulch spilled into the street  
in pristine surroundings a lone bird  
in a recently planted tree

An oversize chess set on the sidewalk  
a steel hippo its leg bolted to the ground  
a large red dog with the shape of a bone  
carved out of its side a giant butterfly  
a water fountain between the two

A guard hauls fence in a pickup truck  
real people look dramatically real  
in the pristine reality of such  
immaculate construction

## A Trompe L'oeil Painting

A kneeling man holds up the top of a  
building and a ball with a lion on his back

A fish mailbox beside railroad tracks  
lightning in rain clouds a do-it-yourself dog wash  
the walls of an arts café covered with paintings  
and ceramics its patrons on their laptops

Up the street an indoor ramp leads to  
a gallery with a sign for studio classes  
*Over Forty Artists Create Here*

## Lines Scratched in a Wall

A barely begun or minimalist mural  
an open door called *Shipping and Receiving*  
with a back wall open to the green hillside

A faded ad for tires *Wide Treads and Cheater Slicks*  
*Studio Open* across from *Open Studio* across from  
*Visitors Welcome* woodworking clay and glassworks

A metalwork wall potted plants in open windows  
the crack of thunder in a purple sky

## A Wooden Ramp

A coffee shop iron railings  
small pockets for tiny flowers

Food Mart firewood nite club patio  
*Towing Enforced Inspection Station*  
bag ice a painting of Gandhi a kayak  
a bicycle built for three a baby carriage  
all in a row on the sidewalk

A bridge over the freeway  
stickers attached to the railing  
*Remember: the best decisions  
are made without thinking*  
*Hello Hugo*

A Salon A Repair Shop

*Cuts and Colors for Men and Women New  
and Used Tires above Used and New Tires*

Three men lean over a drain next to a bar  
and deli across from *Morning Services*  
and a child enrichment center

*Dead End Road Vintage Clothes Outlet*  
tobacco cold beer lottery a pineapple car  
bags of oranges on the trunk of a red car

A red brick church massive white pillars  
a deserted Mexican restaurant behind  
bars and iron gates

## A Bilingual School

A homey not homely hostel  
a strip-metal man on a bicycle  
*Share the Ride*

An outdoor café on the point  
a bank on the corner a gas station  
*says Try Our Gourmet Cappuccino*

A bank of guitars in a store window a row  
of sofas in another a stone monument  
dedicated to the electric railway line  
that ran from 1890 to 1934

## Contemporary Latin Fusion

A small shopping center that's *Van Accessible*  
a graffitied and painted-over wall an empty store  
that's *Move-in Ready* an ice cream store where dogs  
are welcome a yard sale advertised *for every day*

In a papered window an old photo of a theatre  
with *vodvil* on film a side door where the first step is  
four feet off the ground a painted wall of flowerpots  
and plants next to real flowerpots and plants

A pontoon boat in the back yard  
a street sign warns *Littering is Illegal*

## Farmers Market

Guitar bass and fiddle for money  
free to passers-by free to the air

Breakfast crepes from the window of a truck  
rows of cars in the parking lot constantly  
change as patrons come and go

An arc of tented booths with food flowers plants  
sold from the open backs of cars and trucks

Cheese bread meats treats people stop and talk  
in pairs and bunches carry baskets bags push  
strollers with their equally social dogs on leash

Jewelry Cloth Hats Pots

Trailing Lobelia Garlic Dill kielbasa  
Japanese Irises chopping blocks  
herbs Radicchio Spanish mackerel  
lemonade blackberry jam

Chair massage pretzels pain a l'ancienne  
mushrooms eggs salsa Swiss chard

Swamp Hibiscus Napa cabbage fish  
broccoli corn by the cob confections  
condiments local produce lots of kids

## A Mohawk and Full Heads of Hair

Bald heads dresses shorts Crocs baseball caps  
heels sandals canes pony-tails T-shirts trousers  
sunglasses granny glasses boots tennis shoes

Hand bags shoulder bags bellbottoms  
bicycles chained to the stair railings  
introductions among friends and family  
gardeners farmers craft workers bakers  
potters strolling conversationalists

A vendors truck parked over the curb  
seems to leap into the woods

## Highrises to Match the Mountains

Brick walls to match the mountains  
angels in the sidewalk in honor of a local son  
a replica stone house on its side by the street  
in honor of a wealthy local resident

A headless mural of a man holding a bouquet  
a big windowed building for making books  
a man in black rides by on a black motorbike  
a couple strolls hand in hand

## A Bronze Boy on Stilts

A wooden bench a pedestrian crosswalk  
an island of wind chimes painted fish on poles  
an antique market on the second floor  
an elevator for the antique among us  
flower pots in second-story windows  
compost barrels behind a restaurant  
trash barrels beside the compost

*Agents for Cape Fish Co. Boston, Mass.*  
painted high on the side of a building  
back alley architectural beauty  
past the sign *No Parking Fire Lane*

## A Young Mother Rocks her Baby Carriage

Two men at a sidewalk table gesture talk  
loudly to each other tourists consult a map  
a mail carrier pushes her cart a man rolls up  
his sleeves as he walks young tourists pull  
their rolling bags down the slanted street

A yellow banana chair invites customers  
a wooden door painted with a dozen or more  
faces in a gallery of local artists s sign advises  
*These are Not Smoking Plants! Thank You!*  
*a white dog lies in a window of hanging stars*

## A Man Stands by a Wall

Dreadlocks below his knees a cooling unit  
hums in a courtyard *Brighten Your Day*  
*With a Bouquet* a place for cars to be left  
behind with its own decorative canopies

A man turns the corner holds a jungle parasol  
a stocky man in plaid shorts his legs wrapped  
in bandages holds a wooden walking stick  
a store with thousands of shoes on display  
on racks like candies a mother holds her  
daughter's hand her younger son beside her

An old couple in shorts and walking shoes  
next to a man in a cowboy hat and sandals

## A Guitarist in a White T-Shirt

A cigarette bouncing in his teeth  
he sings and they sing along

A plaque on the side of the road  
*The Heart of Downtown Since 1840*  
three people laugh in an open window café  
across from a stone wall like a mosaic two men  
cross against the light a rundown hotel for sale  
a woman in lime green and yellow walks away  
from the area

Even empty spaces seem occupied  
by the desire to see something there

## A Plaque

Honors the local fallen of the Revolutionary War *James Zebulon William Adam Samuel William Lot James William John David Valentine David Robert and Others* another plaque honors police firemen who gave their lives *James Charles Edward Emory Major Harold Louis Perry Alfred Edwin Jimmie Raymond Sammie Jeff* a monument honors the Confederate dead with names *too many to mention*

A curved court honors those who served in all wars *Army Marine Corps Navy Air Force Coast Guard Merchant Marines* a bronze woman with staring eyes holds a letter addressed to *The Homeland*

## Rows of Stanchions

Lead to a vintage auto in front of a new bar  
a woman in the shade waves at her children  
playing in the sun

*In 1920 the city and county considered matching  
buildings the city went with a Beaux-arts design  
the county with a more traditional structure*

A plastic bag blows in the breeze its open top  
and torn bottom defy the prediction of its path  
two bicycles chained together cling to each other  
like brothers or lovers

## Medics Park Their Truck

Two men one heavyset and a woman  
take a break for lunch eat sandwiches  
outside a gem fest at the museum

A red taxi passes as a man runs up the street  
a man leans against a post as a small boy sits  
in his stroller like a worried potentate  
three men sit together at a serving window

A yellow dumpster in the street the unused refuse  
of new construction graffiti on a wall defacement  
for art's sake a little girl on her daddy's shoulders  
holds his hat in her hand

## A Layered Street Person

Pulls from the side pocket of his pants a tissue  
to wipe his nose a man with appliances in the back  
seat of his car combs his hair at the stop light  
a man asks a stranger for 37 cents *I am trying*  
*to get a pack of cigarettes* he says

An old man dressed like a small boy hobbles across  
the street to his waiting wife a man on a burdened bicycle  
with a *loin cloth* he says draped like a hood ornament  
next to a baby stroller with giant cup holders

## Tourists

Take pictures in front of a sculpture in front  
of seated musicians a man drops his phone on  
the sidewalk and as it shatters a young woman  
says *Oh no!* he tries to piece it back together  
the man says *I don't know who that was*

A large chain unused at the base of a bike rack  
a man with a disability walks oddly but gracefully  
down the street the hills that rim the city are lush  
green with light puffy clouds in a blue sky a man  
in a wheelchair walks his dog to the grass  
by a parking garage

## A Painted Woman

A painted cat in a painted window  
on the alley wall of an Italian restaurant  
empty chairs in what seems trompe l'oeil  
very real angled doorway gargoyles peer  
down from the top of a twelve story  
maybe thirteen story building

A woman in black reads to her friend  
a munitions armory manufacturing rifles  
burned in 1865 after its entire operation  
was moved to another state

## Off-Duty

A hook and ladder rolls silently by  
a magician works the crowd *Hello tourists!*  
cops frisk a man as the sound of drums  
fills the park and surrounding streets  
drums beat as countless cameras flash

Dancers dance or merely shake and sway  
a man strolls through playing a piccolo

A girl twirls in the crowd in the center  
of the square with rhythm and grace

## Tap Dancers

Scuffed mats on the sidewalk  
a nearby cart says *Cinnamon Glazed*  
*Gourmet Warm* hula hoop kids play  
alongside the hula hoop lady

The drum circle is swirling sound  
balloon animals pop and die

A man with nipple rings twirls his weapons  
hits himself passes them to a woman

A man flips a stick with two other sticks  
a couple sits arm in arm in private pleasure

## Near the Bandstand

A man in blue another in orange  
musicians in nearly every doorway  
a boy with his skateboard under his arm  
smokers in an outdoor café a washtub bass  
banjo kazoo and steel guitar

The balloon man makes hats for kids  
aided by a woman with angel wings

Bleary-eyed beer drinkers make their way  
home from the outdoor concert as cars on  
the freeway pass over the bandstand fans  
lean out of windows to see the last band play

## A Red House

With orange trim a brick house with a turret  
a long toothy stone wall a white-walled tabernacle  
old homes with long walks and long drives

A muscled hiker strides past a carriage house  
for rent by the month or week buckling cement  
exposed brick on a stairway to an empty lot

a yard a garden a jungle a forest a home  
for the woodland creatures of the imagination  
a hammock on a tripod a birdhouse a tiny home  
nailed to a pole

## Painted like a Red Trolley

A tour bus passes a bed and breakfast another  
bed and breakfast another b & b called an inn  
old homes with names and private drives  
a fat pregnant cat prowls the lawn for bugs  
in front of a verandas with rockers

A city park a sweep of grass and wall  
like a Mayan ball court drops down to  
tennis courts in blue and green a brick  
sidewalk leads to no sidewalk leads  
to grass leads to overgrown curbs  
a long-legged runner cuts to the far  
side of the street

## Cars Pass on the Curve

Homes with flags mounted signs stately elms  
manicured lawns a coat of arms iron gates

A big man with a small dog old windows  
replaced and stacked by the alley

A dog barks inside his backyard cage  
a man in a costume passes out fliers  
a woman sweeps her front steps  
as if she's dressed for dinner