

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Joshua Nguyen: Two Poems

Joshua Nguyen · Thursday, June 8th, 2023

### This Is Just To Say, I Am Done Labeling My Oat Milk In The Faculty Lounge

instead, I will purchase a pink  
piggy bank for people to pay me pennies  
or nickels or whatever dimes  
they feel is needed for me to feed  
their bellies with oat milk oat  
creamer oat meals for their shy  
mouths that won't introduce themselves  
to me in the hallways or at the faculty  
meetings. Maybe yes, maybe a printed  
QR code under a printed picture  
of my face from a year ago:  
smiling with chipped teeth with no  
dental insurance for 6 years. Who has  
time for petty office theft? Which professors  
have no guilt for the taking  
of my plums, my sushi, my goddamn leftover  
bagel bites? Is this a northern thing, a Boston  
thing (a race thing?)? Faulkner or Laymon  
or Trethewey or Nezhukumatathil wouldn't steal  
my milk (I bet O'Hara or WCW would).  
I am a part-time lecturer, not a full-time  
professor of gluten-free blueberry pastries—y'all,  
those aren't even for me, they're for my love  
who is smarter than me, hotter  
than me, & whose tummy wails  
at the site of me chumming down  
\$3 slices of za at the train tracks  
off of Forest Hills because I am  
always hungry & I am  
always searching  
for the cold plums  
I left

in the refrigerator  
door.  
So sweet &  
so mine.

\*

## Abandoned Duplex

Penthouse painting of a Magritte  
of worms that crawl out a green apple.

Worms crawl out the green apple, all that is  
left from the last ransack. Sand litter

left of the sack of black top hats—  
what son of a man lived here?

The son of a man who once lived here  
once spent his love uphill so he could

spend his love to uphold fatherly curses  
broken by the end of the line, by the end

of his world, lineage of silent  
fathers no longer drip

down the red ties of fatherly suits

of pent-up rage that pants toxic grit.

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Purchase *Come Clean* by Joshua Nguyen

*Come Clean* by Joshua Nguyen

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