

CANDY MELT

& it can only get better, speech slurs
together, pink-dyed words lie flat boozy
& flood tongue & gloss coat in unnatural
colors, gaseous licks to those wax-bottle wings
of icarus, same old sucrose hubris on a stick,
& paint a licorice-scented magic marker pastoral
on cellophane tacked up on the cork board to be
misheard by taste-tester, & we know this
flavor, like glitter, like shelter, like lover, but
bitter, backwater, somewhere lodged between
drought and deluge in the syrup-dark center, &
the contest is how many suckers can you let leak
sour, can you hold past the point of pucker, eye
saliva tributary twisting to the final river, fingers
hyper, neck in quiver, liver gone, & lungs sugar

STEAK TARTARE

satin warping in dryers these deep-frying times
on frank's patio where i exchange my soft cheeses
for a peek at a real roasted red pepper genius rib
jitters and butter congealed in his and hers syringes
jack and jill taking heed now yielding to vehicles
to avoid crown kerfuffles enough pam says enough sir
i protest how fast and brutal we nuked the amaretto
turned our backs on the sun-burnt bundt in the oven
ate boilerplates braised in the old brown gravy
our deveined complaints a limp prawn salad rally
ralph jumps french dip fisticuffs how dare you speak
against the grain of a cutting-edge lettuce economy
so again we've made the mistake of talking steak sauce
at the table waddle home to goose gossip lick spare
burger from our nubbins never wonder if we ever
should have tried to ration bone draw bloodless
tongues down in our throats and gobble job well done

PICKLED TONGUE

je ne sais pas the la and eye sure *saw*
the sycamore *bend* the *bona fide* bedding
of dim sum lose some *umm* but beau just
unless this zeitgeist cook can cook *sick*
tsk tsk hipster hombre we meme drain milk
and sí and *veni vidi vici* some kinky *norm*
core borscht this bitch i sole the other day
mezzo-forted *all up on* the ottoman *attaboy*
gigabyte *heat* on a guten tag *chew* like
lathes grace and qué and *what is a whopper*
a world wide *oneself* de nada exeunt