

SUSAN MCCASLIN

TOXIC CULTURE

"Emaciation is the norm"  
the ads seduce

Internal voices invade:  
"You can't eat tomorrow if you eat today"  
You have eaten today, so you don't have to  
eat tomorrow"  
"Pay, pay, pay, for the smallest indulgence"

"All is compunction"  
"Dear saint, your virtue shines"  
Inhale the starvation high

More food games  
Answer to Descartes:  
"I cook; therefore I do not have to eat"  
"Smelling is enough"

The voices contend:  
"We are religion; we are legion."  
"We require nothing less than your absolute  
obedience"

*Susan McCaslin is a poet and Instructor of English at  
Douglas College in Coquitlam, B.C. She is the author  
of ten volumes of poetry.*

ADEBE DERANGO-ADEM

cross-fade

I drink wine  
in summer's haze,  
sitting on trees like a Titian painting  
while yelling your name –  
but there you are  
still sobbing in your suit  
of crushed velvet

what else am I to do when shadows  
redivide  
and the apathy of September  
has retuned itself  
to its great greyness,  
has returned from its slumber  
to give me bouquets? tell me,  
what shall I do if  
across the green waters of stillness  
I have made you a paradise  
that you refuse  
to  
see?

*Adebe DeRango-Adem's poetry appears earlier in  
this volume.*

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