

Naked Fifth

Painting is the silent stroke,
open/close.

Black the jalousie louvering white; light
the lip of time.

Dark distills in death, the living
night is unrefined.

First the image, then the word; bird
and then abode.

Plover, plover, lose your 'p';
land and make a play for me.

“Naked Fifth” appears in Wolff’s book, *Startled Night*, published by Guernica Editions (2012). www.guernicaeditions.com