

O Starving Poet

by Jerry Ratch

A novel is an idea that has
Survived many severe beatings
While a poem is a homely thing that was
Never even asked to the dance

Art Speak, however, is the art of
Systematically overstating and
Re-inventing the Obvious to the point of
Distraction, or extinction. Or annoyance

I know this because I was giving a speech
At the Centre for Cultural Sled-Dogs in Paris
When I spotted the mother of all Cheerios
Sticking to the floor

I had to pause, undecided
Whether or not to pounce
I was so hungry for life
But I didn't want to give up the podium

It had been so long since a poet
Was invited to speak. Still, that mega-Cheerio
Was calling out my name: Starving Poet
O Starving Poet

