

Lawrence Kessenich

Urban Daydream

I want to retire to a cheerful condo
in the city with striped wallpaper
and a padded window seat in the lobby
where the smell of fresh coffee
from the diner next door wakes me
in the morning, where I can walk
to the library and fall asleep
in an easy chair reading *Vanity Fair*.

I want to sit on the window seat and watch
the commuters pile out of their buses
scurry off to jobs they'd rather not do.
I don't want to go anywhere I don't
want to go, do anything I don't want to do
be anyone I don't want to be.

I want to play Scrabble online against
a robot, not caring if I win or lose. I want
no grass to mow, no fence to repair
no Jehovah's Witnesses lurking
on my stoop. I want to look out on the
cityscape from my balcony, sipping
my third cup of coffee, blessing
the beehive activity from afar.

Lawrence Kessenich won the 4,000-euro first prize at the 2010 Strokestown International Poetry Festival for his poem "Angelus." He has published poetry in *Cream City Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Chronogram*, *Conclave*, *Ekleksographia*, *Ibbetson Street* and *Wilderness House*. His chapbook *Strange News* was published by Pudding House Publications in 2008.