

Rhineland Ave.

Coarse plastic astro turf  
sinks and shifts under my weight  
this tiny city balcony  
stands above a backyard crowded with patio furniture,  
chairs astray.  
Orange bug lights hang like plants from the roof  
as citronella soot rises to disappear from a table below.

Serving spoons, old Christmas decorations  
out seasoned,  
displace

Yellow formica overcooked like ziti  
softens the counter top,  
the ceiling light in the kitchen behind me  
the color of a glowing cantaloupe  
as the Christmas lights flicker  
and fade