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Screen Grabs

Micah Ballard

SCREEN GRAB

Wake up
slightly defeated
recuperative blurring detonating
presences, the faces
are connected by want
ads and flyers for readings
a stoke of the actual
with every bulb lit
a pass from Astaroth to bespeak
the binary then I'm out
twice a widow's peak
& free for seasons
the entire salvo a matter
of appearance, yours a matching
bud vase painfully obvious
mine a small joint show
pleasingly still
at last a sidelong stride
to prove me luminous
when the harpers
forget to play their strings
let the opiate speak
for itself

About the author

Micah Ballard is the author of a dozen books of poetry, including *Vesper Chimes* (Gas Meter, 2014), *Waifs and Strays* (City Lights Books, 2011), *Parish Krewes* (Bootstrap Press, 2009), *Evangeline Downs* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2006), and *Negative Capability in the Verse of John Wieners* (Auguste Press, 2001). His third full-length collection, *Afterlives*, is forthcoming from Bootstrap Press in 2016. He is the co-editor of Auguste Press and Lew Gallery Editions and lives in San Francisco.