

FOUND POEM

Uniformly
dilapidated
homes

rusted
some wrecked yet
supported by fragile

plywood beams and
resilient
bodies

keeping the sidewalks
from flying up into
the empty sky

radiating the
muted light
of early spring

cheesesteak
Halal diner
translators

Arabic &
Spanish
EBT

smoky
Jamaican
food trucks

melted
exterior
revealing

stone gray bricks
& twisting copper
pipes

—a work of art
in any other
context
it took effort

to peel my eyes
from it-

we head to
the Allentown
farmers' market

a local
club
advertises

MAINGATE

SAT OCT 1 EMO NIGHT KARAOKE
SAT OCT 26 HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL
SAT NOV 2 DICKIES QUEERS

through the
sun bleached
maroon door

of the
brick industrial
building

"a feast
for the
eyes"

colorful
marbled
meats

serene
cultivated
cheeses

tender
glowing
fruits

grandmothers
watchful
sisters

poking candy
brothers
adrift

full counters
of cheeseburger
companions

enjoying
a day
off

others
trying to make
a buck

eyes on
the clock
ready for

their
shift to
end

infallible
Amish girls with
strong

hands
preparing
uniquely

glazed decadent
pastries
& shining pies

first
opened in
1955

"a
hidden
wonder"

in this
crumbling
neighborhood

I saw
half smiles
theatrical

singing courtly
adolescent dances
spontaneous

echoing laughter
humanity's
awkward warmth

on
full
display

bound
together by
a basic need

for
style

—
all texts borrowed
no credit taken
by this author

Allentown, April 2025