



BUBBLES AND TABLETOPS

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On the tabletop simmers a puddle of a brainstorm wet with ghost-fluid.
Look closer. Touch.
A gentle professor blows bubbles. She hands you a wand.
What do you want to say?

The writer puts a book, closed, on the kitchen tabletop—
opens the lid, twisting.
She raises the wand to her mouth,
the passage to her voice.

Another writer rips paper places pieces on the tabletop.

Feel, writer, as you blow a cascade of colored bubbles into the world.
Watch some stick and line up on the tabletop.

Within bubble film, every shade. Image into imagery.
You see your angles and curves. You ask another writer what she sees.

A self-contained object on a flat surface. A word floats. A paper floats.
A voice floats.

Breath and echoes of words, reverberating sounds
in a larger space, unspecialized and welcoming.
An interior space, a clean walk-in nook.
What happened to the concrete? Where is the weatherman?

Window-dark and electric ceiling bulb-light
track bubbles and reflect on Formica surfaces.
At noon on a spring day, the entire bubble shines.

Spilt bubble juice next to an overturned inkwell. We share our tabletop.
This is our mess.

Where our words can rest and ask questions about themselves,
where your bubble-wand is wet.

Smear and wipe it with paper and cloth. Sing as you clean.
Remember how to spill when you press your palms on the tabletop and
stand.

Somebody turned a carton of letters on its head.
Each fell and the carton overflowed.
What will you do?

What are you concocting? What are you stirring? What are you
cooking? What are you serving? How does it taste?
It's not ready. It tastes like soap. It's verbing. It's steeping.

A line of poetry measured by breath. String the bubbles together.

An unpopped bubble:
each draft hovers until
it settles atop the Formica.

How can your hands and breath pool resources?

Somebody has left scissors on the tabletop—school-scissors. Lift them.
Set your wand back in the bubble-well on the tabletop.

You're ready to pop and breathe, ready to deflate and inflate again.