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Yellow

Marvin Solomon

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YELLOW

Was Van Gogh's quirk. Sun,
 Sunflowers, wheatfields, skin,
 Were empty of spectrum, cardinal
 With spleen. Arles' photosynthesis
 Fluxed to no final sigh —
 His noon eye transfixed the leaf's
 Important flex, was the poppy petal's
 Ulterior drug. So the cow was

Yellow, so the cypress was,
 The legume peasant at his ochreous
 Tasks, curé and mayor, grape
 And grass. Into bedlams of pollen,
 Fevers of light, he went,
 Stumbled with oaths to his quinned
 Stare, jug-eared and chaff-haired — ape
 Of his idiot shadow. Then,

Stabbed to its molten heart,
 The land ran sulphur: the brazen goat
 Baa-ed in a honey trap,
 The rivers brimmed with volcanic butter.
 Aqueduct and amphitheatre
 Quaked and cracked in a golden fire.
 Beehive dwarfs stamped the Roman steps,
 And hunchbacks, hour by hour,

Rang startled swallows from their tocsin
 Heads. Ergot-deep in grain,
 He cursed his yellow guy, and drank
 His yellow wine, and with a yellow
 Bullet scattered his yellow brains
 To cosmic dandelions;
 And crows rose in a yellow gang
 To the meridian of his yellow eye.

—MARVIN SOLOMON