

Stephanie Ivanoff

ARTIFICIAL ARRANGEMENT

Of an arid dimension,
abstract of a dew and of a seed,
this posy overacts

its cereals, palms, lilies,
orchids, bananas, pineapple,

gestures at the gesture
of a floriated vegetable

cruise ship centerpiece,
an insensible moss
advising its gloom by anaesthetic,

plastic and eternal.

A fan of these waxes finds
perpetual and imperishable

lives, mummies of the rose-corpse
or the fibbed stuff of foxglove,

without photic enzyme

or the tenderer cells botanic
or the light authentic

here restored by brute gut
that wants repair
of such transients, the originals,

our grave arrangement
in memory of the same
that seemed,
from care's sake,
there.