

## **Granuloma**

by Paul Turner, 2007

Empty offices and choking pantomime,  
Confetti flutter and squeegee dodger,  
Ash white covers lowered Manhattan.  
Labradors nose and shepherds paw the wreck.  
Herein lay parts of unknown dead.

On the pile, stubble faces slip paper masks,  
And cough and accumulate.  
Hammers clang about for lost sounds.  
A stinking fire waits for January to snuff out.  
Day-after evanescence, Mayor's soapbox proclaims togetherness.

Back into work, beat the odds, and convince ourselves: a regimen.  
Office cleaners scrub in, while they last, and the clog begins again.  
Back-to-back shifts without respirators,  
Broom and a mop and gristle, and flying particulates.  
Accumulate, settle, insinuate.