



From Hub, Johns Hopkins University

Michael Berton

## Cruising Onlookers

Someone walks  
and pass they go  
spending all their sexuality  
on anonymous  
lookers  
dreamers

Another walks  
by and glances  
back  
at the lookers  
staring up a flirt  
from their wine or coffee

Walk side by side  
no peeking to the corners

eyes on the floor  
lots of mind groping  
from the onlookers  
undressing  
both sexes

A stuttering walk or strutting stroll  
like a drunk  
on a moving sidewalk  
gaining recognition  
in performance

Meandering  
in limelight  
under heated glares  
a stage to prance and preen  
a soliloquy of glossolalia

They strolled  
with their pinkies out  
right by us  
as we twitched our cigs

The flaneur  
flaunted the rose  
on his lapel  
while pretending

They walk they pass  
glances  
everywhere  
everyone  
pleasingly  
satiated

Waddling whimsy  
around sunset  
the fake flaneur  
graced us  
with a geometry  
lesson

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Michael Berton's work has appeared in a number of journals, reviews and magazines. His first collection *Man! You Script the Mic* (New Mitote Press) came out in 2013.