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Canola Anti-prayer

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JOHN KINSELLA

CANOLA ANTI-PRAYER

Our prayers are outside
the church; they are skeptical
of the burgeoning canola but not the spark
inside and without the living plant.
Whatever is done, yellow
sacraments host elements
of scoured and poisoned soil
that ants lift against tribulation,
each flower a light, each flower
a prayer for seed that might
perpetuate without commerce.

Our prayers are outside
the church; in the star, gravity,
craven yellow dark, stretched
light. All that is canola.

Our prayers are outside
the church; you can't help
the uplift, even with hay fever
burying you: prayers outside
this field of vision, though litany,
chants, and recitation seep through stone
piled against harsh weather, cool
when sun burns bright either side
of shade, designed to elevate
the field of yellow flowers
it is set against. No *son et lumière*.