Ode To Derrida

Marcos McPeek Villatoro*
ODE TO DERRIDA

Marcos McPeek Villatoro

You've got these poet's skulls all worked up. You've done a lobotomy on their heart. Forgive me, I know that such a surgery doesn't exist, although the words mean the same and don't mean shit.

But, the heart! Where do you hang it? With what surgical tools you mangle it? Please, don't come near me or I will go celebrate outside, where the piñata flies and the grandmother gossips and the tortillas pop on the frying pan. Deconstruct that, pendejo.

The gringos would love you if their souls weren't sliced open by the theory scalpels that you handed out. We would invite you if you would be so kind to leave the university machetes checked at the door. And you,
like a good Frenchman, could teach us
to raise our glass
(without questioning if it is a cup or a rose or a rose or nothing)

You have blood, Sir –
you simply forgot.

— Translated from the Spanish by Carmen Giménez Roselló