

# O Starving Poet

*by* Jerry Ratch

A novel is an idea that has  
Survived many severe beatings  
While a poem is a homely thing that was  
Never even asked to the dance

Art Speak, however, is the art of  
Systematically overstating and  
Re-inventing the Obvious to the point of  
Distraction, or extinction. Or annoyance

I know this because I was giving a speech  
At the Centre for Cultural Sled-Dogs in Paris  
When I spotted the mother of all Cheerios  
Sticking to the floor

I had to pause, undecided  
Whether or not to pounce  
I was so hungry for life  
But I didn't want to give up the podium

It had been so long since a poet  
Was invited to speak. Still, that mega-Cheerio  
Was calling out my name: Starving Poet  
O Starving Poet

