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Objet Trouvé

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OBJET TROUVÉ

Ron McFarland

Glancing out the kitchen window this morning
onto the lawn I'd meticulously mowed
last Saturday, I saw what appeared to be
a foot-long strip of red and white rag,
maybe a wad of paper
blown in from a neighbor's garbage.
My wife believes in art.
Our walls sing out with beauty, design
and balance, with almost frightening symmetry.
Before we walk on the immaculate beige carpet,
we remove our shoes: it's that kind of house.
She does not understand
random scatterings, the Budweiser bottle
shattered in the gutter, cigarettes
smoked down to their filters and flipped
casually into our carefully weeded shrubs,
nomadic and nameless dogs leaving their scat,
unforeseen costs of a corner lot.
She will not appreciate
this avant-garde still life: small rabbit
half devoured on a lawn of sun-scorched grass.