

PRESCRIPTION

**JOHN
NIEVES**

If you are afraid of disappearing, stand under
a just-changed streetlight, stand twelve feet
above the sidewalk, stand in the center of a metaphor
for someone else's longing. If you are worried
about fading out, burn every photograph you can
find with you in it, record over your voicemail
message with fireworks and buzz saws, refuse to say
your own name so you will never be done with it.
If slippage of self is your concern, your own memory
of you, get other people to tell you about yourself
and record it, play it at the beach, mock the ocean's
constantly unsure shape. If terror is just your natural
state, avoid mirrors, avoid anyone who wants,
with all of their heart, to be a mirror.