

eric sommer

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from grace street in wrigglyville

a green motorbike leans impossibly over
jacked up high on it's pull-back kick stand
it is engaged in protecting the flank
of a line of parked cars facing Wriggly Field
on grace street at the corner of grace and clark
in an almost spent november

the shadow of the late morning winter sun
moves slowly down the curb
and the crazy angle mirrors
the frozen-midair-leap of the brave motorbike
who's powerful position attracts
a bicycle, two small dogs, another bicycle and
a vortex of swirling leaves

the chicago winds blow the leaves across
the asphalt, pebbled and pockmarked
and they collect en mass at the base of the
leaping motorbike
as an occasional car passes by
heading thru from clark street to n. lincoln
and, taking this traverse, it intersects thoughtlessly
with the late morning
winter scene playing out before me

The light throws branchy shadows
on the side of a silver car
now dulled by the pale blue sky
so tempered by the change of seasons' adjustment and the
sudden, furious bursts of wind
that fill the air on this chicago corner of grace street
and clark street

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by the alley driveway
surrounded on all sides by a wall of
small bright yellow leaves, so bright
as to be almost surreal

swirling and turning and scattering wildly
across the asphalt
to settle below and beside the silver hub caps and
stylish spokes of the parked silver car just a few feet from
the leaping motorbike
and completely hiding the base of
a small poplar tree
now leaning so far over from
the force of the winds that it must be crying out
and the tree, in pain, leans so far over in the wind
that it almost touches
the top of the parking meter
anchored in the concrete sidewalk
next to the spot
where the two bicycles remain affixed
next to the leaping motorbike
caught in mid-leap by the kickstand

firmly secured to earth
at the corner of grace street and clark street
in wrigglyville