

THE NEW POETRY

by Oscar Treadwell

If you write it, write it so
it can't be understood;
neither by bespectacled Miss Collins
or the Hood,

or the child, or an MFA,
or smokers in a bar,
ladies home with tea,
or a mafia consiglieri.

Write it like you didn't know
that knowing it
would draw Ashberry's wrath, then again,
write it just before a bath.

Or having writ, and had it published
answer with a sneer,
"no one was near to help me widdit,
I did my damnedest here."

What did I mean by apercu?
Try your luck, look it up,
look sincere, don't crack a smile,
and in just a little while

you'll be the darling of the New,
no one will question apercu,

or you.