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## Frank's America

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*Gary Duehr*

## FRANK'S AMERICA

This is the other 'Merica, where brims of hats  
& lids of eyes slant  
downward: what they want  
is for their face to be a perfect mask  
while their fingers work

defiantly to pry it off. By the seldom light  
of pool halls & funerals  
they offer homage to what might  
become, & has been. Their age is that  
of fluted columns made of limestone, marble.

When the rest of America  
kick its shoes off by the hassock  
by the glow of RCA, & loosens from its neck  
that knot, their day begins: go, juke,  
go! Pump your ripe aorta

till sawdust seethes to paint the air, & all forget  
exactly why they're here—that awful weight.