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Poppies

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POPPIES

BRAD LAMBERT

flourish, wilt, seasonal rouge.
leaves bake themselves into the mud,
potters raking clumps of clay
into kilns at dawn.
fingertips, open palms,
bare feet blindly paw at pedals
by dim and wintry light,
by center-justification,
by the plight of precious petals—
Solaris! redden the dew! thaw the mud!
for who else will ask the poppies
if all is fair in blood, blue?
in war, red?