Color Coded

Grace Bauer

Ode to Pink
If the baby’s a girl,
they swaddle her in this –
a marker of gender
that’s too hot to miss.

Ode to Blue
If the baby’s a boy,
this color will do,
though no one really wants
their son to be blue.

Ode to Gray
Fashion advice decrees
it will bring out the green
of your eyes, but only if
we’re talking shirts – not skies.

Ode to Black
Basic. Slimming. Sinister.
Supermodel. Minister.

Ode to White
Fuck all the virgins
in love with their purity.
Just like most whores,
they’ll end up in obscurity.

Ode to Red
Poinsettias, cardinals,
and politician’s wives,
polka dots
of blood on the counter –
your own dull knives.

Ode to Purple
Color of royalty.
Color of passion.

Alice Walker’s favorite.
It’s always in fashion.

Ode to Orange
Rhymes with nothing
For no good reason.
I’ve heard it’s the new black,
The hit of the season.

Ode to Brown
Solid ground, tree’s rough bark,
feather of wren and meadowlark,
fur of mouse, moose, rabbit, bear –
color found most everywhere.

Life in drab’s more common than sin.
When you can’t run for cover,
it’s best to blend in.

Ode to Plaid
It combines many colors –
that’s certainly true,
but unless you’re a Scotsman,
it’s best to eschew.

Ode to Gr(e)ya Update
Some spell with e’s
Some spell with a’s
Either way, as a color
It’s pretty neutral in its ways

But if Grey’s a pervy boss
And you a willing maid
Both of you should remember
To always pull down the shades.