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I learned

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I learned

To string
Lights. Lies
Upon my
Limbs for
Another.

I Turn on
my Face,

As Living
Day-core.

--

They say
Masking
Takes off

Years of
Your life.

Trauma,
Sunken
In To Our

Skins--
--Deep.

--

They say
Fluorescent
Lights will
Kill you.
Some of
Us must
Take the
Warning,
Literally.

--

We, the
Electricity,

Sparkling
Social
Spaces
With ALL
Of our
Energies

Til all our

Lightbulbs
Burn out.

--

I have
Been
Left,

Frayed
Wires
Covered

In Warm
Glass.

--

Leave.
do Not
Come
back
Mistaking
My bulbs
For your
snack,
Waiting.

--

I have since
Smashed

The fixture
You once
Gazed Upon.

ReMade myself
Mosaic----
-|||from|_|_|
--Shattered
Shards of me.

--

My light
Show is
Canceled.

Shut
Down.

--

I no longer
Cast Free
Glams
For Other's
Hungry
Darkened
-Eyes.

-Dr. bird

Bernadette “bird” Bowen (she/they/Dr.) is a neuroqueer Visiting Assistant Professor, Critical Media Ecologist, and Poet in the Media Journalism, & Film department at Miami University. Their interests intersect the broad fields of critical and feminist theories, with an eye towards the ideological struggle between institutions, identities, intimacies, and media ecologies