

Colorful

The poster is there one morning
on the bus shelter—colorful,
like the season: “People
in your neighborhood” theme muppets
for Christmas; buy them at FAO Schwartz.

Bright blue for your NYPD muppet;
a deep green sanitation muppet;
the firefighter muppet in glowing red;
along with a searing-yellow cab-driver muppet.

How to continue this theme? I ask
myself, remembering other people
in my neighborhood: Maybe a pair,
in Black and Brown, representing
the single-mothers-who-need-to-work-
a-job-and-a-half-but-can't-
find-even-one-right-now muppet?

A modest tan will do for the undocumented-
Mexican-who-works-out-of-sight-in-the-
kitchen-of-the-Chinese-restaurant muppet.

Gray seems right for the homeless-vet-on-the-
street-with-his-hand-made-sign-and-hat-out-for-you-
to-throw-in-some-loose-change muppet.

And our shopping-cart-lady-who-rummages-
in-rubbish-barrels-for-bottles-and-cans muppet
will probably be the palest white we can find.

I haven't yet decided on an appropriate color
for the irate-poet-who-wants-to-tell-the-world-
but-nobody-seems-to-be-listening muppet.

I'll get back to you on that one.

Steve Bloom
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