

On Autism, or Authoritative Art

Empowered—abled, blessed—to think *different*

At birth, is to divine a dissident

Imagination, so that gulls bark pink,

Rain speaks Greek... *Autism's* not what you think:

It's how a person dreams magic, other

Possibilities: How orange is mother

When her soup blurps like Mozart composing

A farce—theme music for the deposing

Of a piranha in a civil suit

Of armour!—*et cetera*. What's astute

In *Autism* is that everything's *Art*:

Autistic *Being* is mind tuned to heart,

So what's *Thought* crafts—drafts—fresh insights fleshed out

That astonish—hallmark of the poet.

George Elliott Clarke

7th Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2016-17)