

Slow time at woolco

Can you stand here
at your till
no customers in sight
supervisors at bay

balance on either foot
then remember
it's easier on them
and your spine
if you stand up straight
on both

Can you stand here
block away the neon glare
ignore those callings
looming low
and the smells in the air
- chocolate corned beef
men's cologne -
the obnoxious manager
swirling hyperactive
before your eyes

Can you stand here
not mind the interruptions
keep your chain of thoughts
and write a poem?

Michèle Pujol