



Announcing  
the 2022 Michael True  
Memorial Reading  
featuring  
**Jonathan Blake**  
Thursday, February 17, 2022  
7:30pm

Curtis Performance Hall, Tsotsis Bldg. 120  
Tsotsis Family Academic Center  
Assumption University

Vigilance

My friend tells me he's been waiting  
For days. Has painted nothing.  
Each time I visit it is as if he has never moved,  
Though he assures me his life continues:  
Good harvest meals from his dying garden,  
The simple pleasure of washing dishes,  
Car repairs and unexpected phone calls,  
making slow love with his wife.  
He tells me the waiting is necessary,  
That the light moves with grace across  
The small table where one branch of blossoms  
Stands in the blue bottle; that he waits  
For the petals to have just the right color  
Of dying, that particular beauty  
Of what will fall in its own sweet time.  
How the spirit is revealed.  
The decorative left behind.  
He insists there is only one moment  
Like this for each living thing.  
That he must wait to paint the magnificence  
In the moments after suffering.

—Jonathan Blake