



240P



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Wherever else these poems have  
previously appeared or will appear we  
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## MY NEIGHBOR'S ROOM

You guide me into the room with no walls that requires  
a stack of permeable screens to be carried out  
and installed in its window openings, which permit

the ocean air to come in in the summer and inspire  
you and go out like a breath. You tell me about  
your late wife's voice, how it issues from her sun-lit

pictures, speaking to us in the radio's songs. Your heart  
beats, embedded with an inimical plaque. The art

of a life is maybe to be repetitive, to ascertain  
meaning out of invisible air. To capitulate to the wry  
smell of ocean life that has died in order to reappear

as other things. When we are done, we are contained  
by the positioned screens. The birds in your yard try  
to be instruments. It is the sixth month of the year.

Jonathan Aprea