

Joy Goes Off the Page

*-for Sam Jablon's Word:Play, Freight + Volume, 2014*

Barely room in Bushwick for Sam's studio,  
packed with poets, littered with words.  
Walt and Emily on parade, Beckett cool  
in his shades, Francis Ponge has written "Things."  
And Things there are! Cover them glitteringly  
Dancingly, shipwrecked and free. Free image  
from canvas, free meaning from word, free  
everything! just give it away. Joy. Joyjoy. Joyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoyjoy  
Langston croons, give him room, it takes time  
to read the poem. Inside the poem is the painting.  
Inside the painting is the poem. Holy Scrabble  
mirror ball, rhumba Rubik's haiku. Sun sets  
under Manhattan. Inside the dance there is a poem.  
Inside the poem is well you get the picture. Now the  
poets are saving the last dance for you. They are  
sleeping inside the poem inside the painting. Sam  
is painting word by word, letter by letter, p, o, e, m.

-Bob Holman