


2021

## Blanket Warmer

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### Recommended Citation

Pau-Llosa, Ricardo (2021) "Blanket Warmer," *Birmingham Poetry Review*. Vol. 48, Article 56.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/bpr/vol48/iss2021/56>

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*Ricardo Pau-Llosa*

## Blanket Warmer

*at an ICU*

No rush like matter's panic before a void.  
Off Naruto, Edo-period masters  
Hokusai and Hiroshige beheld the roiled  
expanse, in which fishermen saw disaster,

as emblems of their purifying compulsion.  
Today a skybridge and tourist boats reduce  
the scene to aberrant glance and profit function.  
Unaware, the artists also prophesied

these coils of warming wools patients and kin  
request amid the frigid pavillions. Like eyes  
in vigil, the fingerprint swirls spin  
in place, stacked, weapons loaded with the promise

of comfort. All around us, the treachery  
of fraying from tubes, in bleats, caught in machine  
fervors that cannot pull us from the frenzy  
and vortex all flesh becomes. But clean

warmths mantle both the patient and  
the sick, who shell here in numbing solace  
like priests in long-spent blanks and bones  
with carnate stains, in failure's sure embrace.