

Death by Drowning

Richard Zimmerman

Gladys sits by the phone
and listens to the olive
soak up her martini.

Outside, the sycamores lay
shadows on the lawn.
Inside, the glass casts
shadows on the table.

Gladys eases herself into her drink
and grabs hold of the green float.

Her phone rings
but no one's home
except Gladys
and the olive
with its pimento;
all three slowly sinking in the glass.

She tries to grasp the rim
but the sides are too steep.
The phone keeps ringing
the olive yawns
its pimento escapes
only to drown
along with Gladys
in the bottom of the glass.