

ASYLUM

I keep telling Claire if we do right
And sequester greenhouse gases

The fragmentary contemplation that provides
A temporary absence will unmask

Itself behind the screen, composite to
The patterns of ballet, a type of performance

About aesthetic lines one associates with
Hundreds of LED pixels combining

To form the consummate retail environment—not
The most erotic shape, nor a system of

Phrases whispered where the clavicle
Ossifies due to lack of room to grow—but

A habitat in which suffering is lessened, where
One carves out a world away from the world

That forced the journalist to wear
A microphone during his execution—

Where details are still emerging
As the community is burned

And the body is then burned
So brilliantly at the center

Of its multimodal education

— Claire Donato, originally published in *Ninth Letter*