Featured Poet: Quincy Lehr

Quincy R. Lehr's most recent books are *The Dark Lord of the Tiki Bar* and *Heimat*, and his poems and criticism appear widely in print and online journals in North America, Europe, and Australia. A longtime co-host of the Carmine St. Metrics series in New York City, Lehr is also the associate editor of *The Raintown Review*.

At this year’s conference, Lehr will offer free consultations to poets looking to improve their work, as well as reading on our panel of resident poets.

Below is one of Lehr’s poems, “Dr. Huxtable's Roofie Lab”.

Beware the smiles of kind old men,  
the brownstone flipped and paid in cash,  
the "Yes we can!" yelled yet again,  
the winners of the market crash.

Beware the bleach smell on the walls,  
the Google search you never make.  
Beware the cars at shopping malls,  
the shale oil and the minor quake.

Beware the quivering gelatin,  
the sugar added to the mix,  
the star who says you're deep in sin,  
the oft-suggested bootstrap fix  
supposed to lift that rips your shoes  
and leaves you prone and on your knees.  
Beware the calls to "pay your dues."  
Beware the birds, beware the bees.

Beware the laughter that seems taped...  
or spliced... or maybe double-tracked.  
Beware the well-heeled neighbor aped  
by arrivistes, the joke that’s cracked  
by doctors bearing baby boys,  
by fathers checking up on girls.  
Beware the grown man with his toys.  
Beware the way the cocktail swirls,
keeping the powder thinly spread,
the tang of medicine suppressed.
Beware the lightness in your head.
Beware his smile when he's undressed.