

## The Fish Lamp on the Cover of *Coastal Living Magazine*

As scup or drum, his realm is the open sea,  
but now, this living room: the chintz  
and brocades, a tidy reef of table and vase.  
He's made of rice and chrysanthemums,  
the slurry pressed beneath a stone,  
then fingered across a bamboo frame.  
His fins splay out and paper eyes bulge,  
as if his equilibrium—pinioned  
atop a metal pole, body puffed full  
of sixty watts and air—astonishes.  
That lyric, *Too many fish in the sea?*  
He croaks and hums and whistles along.  
And the dark that sails beyond the window—  
he has never seen such dark water.

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