

Vincent Katz

Café with Bryan Ferry

If Bryan Ferry were sitting at this café
He'd be sitting outside, as we are, watching the people pass by
He'd have ordered a plain croissant and coffee
And he'd be putting butter and jam on it and admiring
The freshness of it in his mouth and the soft caress of the warm October air

The breeze is causing the canopy edge to flutter,
In turn causing a shadow to enter and retreat
On the edge of the café table
Its pulsing is mesmerizing and also calming
It helps put him in a general trance of mid-day

On this quiet back street in a quiet neighborhood
There's no telling who may pass by
Whom he may have the opportunity to meet
He chats with the delivery man, a young bearded guy with tattoos up his arms
He compliments him on his parking job, how he got the large truck

Just onto the curb so that the small street
Is passable and the sidewalk as well
The man seems genuinely pleased that
Someone noticed a detail in his work day
And then went to the extra effort

To compliment him on it,
There's a tenement on the corner,
Cornice intact, elaborate terra cotta
Accents, parallel lines alternating with brick,
Geometric leaf motifs above the windows



Vincent Katz is a poet and translator living in New York City. His poetry collection, *Broadway for Paul*, was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2020.