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Single-Heartedness

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Single-Heartedness

David Schelhaas

Not content with having spent all summer
pumping out giant crookneck squash,
some weighing more than seventeen pounds,
this old (in vegetable time) squash plant continues her work
as blithely and confidently as if it were early June instead of late October.
Wide green leaves flutter on the fence,
tiny squash curl fetus-like
under a sun-warmed green cocoon and
three bright yellow blossoms, full of purpose and ignorance,
grin into the late afternoon sun.
They do not know that the television soothsayers
have looked into their bird entrails and seen hoar frost
on tomorrow's lawns and death's wilt and shrivel
on every growing thing.