(Self) Immolation: Or, On Breaking the Fourth Wall
Reid Bruner

(Re) Fine-
The final syllable
Dropped two days before
You departed for some sort
Of new Nirvana(s).

The "i," ice(ily) accented,
Crashed in a state of (im)perfect (dis)order-
A pile of cinderblocks throwing off an
Ashy (un)holy cloud. To this day, light
Drifting and Sifting downstream to my face
Is a dirtied sepia. And to think the light first arrived
With another face ready to meet mine.

That word, still that word tastes of
Frozen air Yellowing decay Smelted skin
And (self-) forced exile.

A triptych:
Left Panel: A plain oaken table with an intrusive light set
above. A white note stained with cream lettering--This
was pored over like a holy text until the words lost their
meaning and body then were reincarnated as points and
lines and strokes.
Center Panel: I sit hunched over in a chair, staring at you,
Casual Viewer, Indifferent Reader. Peer into this scene.
Share your thoughts. And please be something more than
silent strained pity eyes or a muffled “What the fuck?”
No. Enough of that. Tell me, what is burning?
Right Panel: Strident Vacance—A b(l)otched plaster wall with fissures spiderwebbing over the surface. Whether I d(r)i(l)ing out the ground, (re)record all the (already happened) current happenings, (un)dissect writing(s) until the bare bones (de) lay before me—Soft light touches on some other (Ex Nihilo) rivulet trickling off the cracks. Disappointed? Well, this is your art. From the darkening corners to the ghostpale skin.

Out the (sl)iced window,
Pruned trees remind me of a thousand limbless Shivas
[They used to dance in the breeze. So well, so often—in the breeze.]
They’ll act as my (pseudo-)meditation, shrouded
In a hazed winter light. Inhale. Exhale.
Inhale.. Exhale.. Inhale... Exhale... Inhale(s) Exhale(s)
   Light brown *Inhale* Light brown hair *Exhale*
   Light brown hair falling *Inhale* Light brown hair
   Falling from the tower *Exhale* Light brown hair
   Ling from the tower to the ground *In-... Kha, kha, kha-
   Light brown hair falling from the tower to the ground
Was my last sight of you.

   My breaths come in shallow and (un)sure
   And I go splash azure and (s)cold(ing) water
   All over my body. Do what mast be done.

   Still in shock. Note to <<self>> control the
   Pen stroke. Note to <<self>> the body is only
   A vessel, and a frail one at that. Note to <<self>>
   You no longer belong to my”self.” (I) found an
   Answer in muddied greys. What was burning?
   Glimpse around and find any empty spot.
   The body’s only a weak vessel.