

FLAVORIST

Strawberries: green and grassy and sweet, all at the same time.
Pineapples: hot, spicy with mustard notes, cheesy and very fruity.

Late May, she conferences with wild tongues,
emulsion people,
and bitters

for sacraments of food on wafers
hawked by tastemongers.
Grazing,
she rarely inserts anything into her mouth. Swallows, never.
It's the coin of capitalism sucked,
the brain declaiming *good* without chewing.

I pour her a glass of water, a kind of napkin.

The corporate world's tentacles calamari her every effort.
She copies the famous cookie in cheaper and cheaper oils.
She makes America fat.

Why not thin?
Another industry, another flavor not so mouthy, she says.

Growing up, she had the last bite.