

Masthead Logo

**The Iowa Review**

---

Volume 27  
Issue 2 *Summer/Fall*

Article 72

---

1997

## Bleecker Street

Timothy Liu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Liu, Timothy. "Bleecker Street." *The Iowa Review* 27.2 (1997): 169-169. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.4940>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

## BLEECKER STREET

Desire mapping stringencies across a stranger's chest  
marked by razor burns, waistbands of designer briefs  
hinting at the bulge I seek (half-eaten bagel tossed back  
and forth between two thugs who loiter at a subway  
stop)—the anorexic tits of a sylph-like nymph pressed  
under Plexiglas. To be sandwiched like that—flat  
images filling up rush hour space where commuters wait.  
Nothing to lend some depth to this scene, nothing  
upright as the rails snake under the city—a drag queen  
singing on a train leaving town. If she is not lovely  
then a lemon has no scent, no sunlight at its center,  
the night no match for stiletto struts in gold lamé—  
hubris poised in five-inch heels braving the sewer grates.