



In Defense of the Tomato Hornworm

by Mikki Aronoff

Track backwards
from the moth,
from angel
to destroyer,
from pollinator
to defoliator,
sunlight
to shadow.
Behold a silo
of green,
all mouth
and gut
as he curls
from leaf
to stem,

motile log
of non-stop gnaw.
Observe as he
inters himself,
twirls down
into dirt,
churns
a hidden soup
of cells
that realign
into a being
light enough
to consider.