

I'm in poverty

© 1970 John Sturgeon

I'm in poverty
like a bastard,
even when a carnival
comes to town:

just hanging around
I hear some music,
so, I check it out
sneaking under the tent

I see the wires
and the stares of the faces
fix on an actor,
a tightrope artist.
these colors amaze me
the frenzy seems strange,
I'm thrilled with the sighs
entertained by the trance
of the air

but, in rags
such a skillful beggar
I know
I can't pay without pockets
and put no mortgage
on my humor
just to stay