

The Cabinet of Lesser Offenses

cannot help itself it endeavors
toward disaster

—an orchestra of secondary pleasures
it speaks in horns and trumpets
in capitals imperatives swears indecently
 senses what is pliable and leaps

precipitando

*(rushing,
headlong)*

into the piacular

for laziness impetuousness schadenfreude

—crimes against others are crimes against the self

-issimo, -etto

(more or less)

skirts the edges bassoon and string
to pacify
the anxiety that is its waste

andante

What *of* your vices? it prepares them

placido

on a plate

Is it a weakness or window, it asks

capriccioso

(fancifully)

and sends its dog for fetching

Arco!

Arco—pronto!

(with the bow)

He offers himself obediently
slides on his paws through leaves and straw
fetches back a human heart

holds it *pesante*

(heavily)

in his maw and does not break
the membrane of its chambers

if offered a hand, he will eat out of it

a piacere

(at pleasure)

or he will lick it clean to bone