

Earthly  
by Natalie Ryan

Manicured hands,  
pampered hair,  
steamed sweater.  
Skirt-  
pressed and pleated.

Silver platters,  
glass ware at dinner.  
Play clothes that  
differ  
from the accoutrements worn for the  
remainder.

Polished, glistening cars.  
Crisp, pinstripe suit and tie.  
Buffed shoes and ball gowns.

Painted and stained fences,  
organized and arranged stone walls.

Barriers  
divide  
neighbor  
from  
neighbor.

The necessities that are  
longed and clinged.

Visible satisfaction, yet  
internal doubts.  
Superiority and power.

Do these make you more human than I?

Silence.