

Toxic Media

sunlight casts shadows beneath our eyes
numbed by each cup of weak caffeine
insincere laughter joins hollow smiles

starstruck in twisted mirrors
silently tears escape
from our weary eyes

scrolling to avoid conversations
preoccupied by the lies it feeds
hungry? that's unattainable for beauty.

the outward cries of being an abomination
why do you demand to be seen
by those who do not want to see you?

internalized hatred persists
disposing your confidence
lets them win

pleasing... for their eyes
we pose for golden hour
finally, blessed by the evening's glow
where did it go?

we retreat to our darkened bedrooms

— *Kai Van Dyke*