

E. Martin Pedersen

Fun at the Carnival

The carnival barkers are out in full force
come here, beautiful, try the ring toss
everyone a winner, three tries a buck
see the bearded lady and the two-headed goat
see the tattooed couple eating cotton-candy
hear the preacher scream and sweat
hear the salesman explain a revolutionary kitchen gizmo
your life will be so much better
it can get so much better
with the right medicine (caution: may cause suicide)
there are issues and there are positions

there's a truth needle in a haystack of lies
find it, make a compass to show the way north
lay it gently on water, watch it settle
but after all the fun of the carnival
you'll never again completely trust
you may even forget why
science is so important
going a certain direction.

E. Martin Pedersen, originally from San Francisco, has lived for 40 years in eastern Sicily where he teaches English at the local university. His poetry has appeared most recently in *Ginosko Literary Journal*, *Abstract Magazine*, *Neologism Poetry Journal*, *Poesis* and *Thirteen Myna Birds*. Martin is an alumnus of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. His collection of haiku, *Bitter Pills*, has just come out. He blogs at <https://emartinpedersenwriter.blogspot.com>