

## Chris Brownsword

### BRIGHTENING ON ALL

Fell but each from raised, the colours moored  
along horizon ran down mote. The dust  
on ground raked from air this flaring to vibrant  
feathers dissolving into mirror. I rush towards

sunset, the foliage wavering and pressing  
into sky had wandered into this from swerved

around below, the river tasting of ash.  
Insects feed hands then fled my own that were

to stream faded. As swarm among the lakes,  
the branches ribboned and leaking into

threshold. I abandon gravel where trees distant.  
Encased as yellow outcrop release through gradient  
to reach a fever-point was brightening on all my  
body screeching and every nerve now light, the pulse

within turning lay engorged  
to shed pelt on leaves.

## HYBRID

Enlarge talons between plumage as dust  
swirled around me            the debris viewed through  
unvarying light, a deep calm which enters

where dark settling my shape on floor my  
    hands did stream towards nettles (yet reflected  
                                 upon sandy ground). Lean against from

                                 meadow rooting through fissured concrete.  
Wandering, I gaze at the river, the surface  
                                 bright and filmed with pollen. For without into these

did once or ever where garden throws scent  
    along corridor did ever now I tread uneven soil: the sky  
                                 angled into threshold, the sun vivid among foliage

Perimeter as sudden rusting does hold claw though  
into arms divided I held restless not guiding particles, my nerves  
    glowing around the centre as if risen from some warm  
                                 open sea, these never to abandon yet shone in magnolia

now over grass fed mayflies (their wings a distant hum  
where field enclosed by water). The tide risen. The city a single point  
of light. My skin bound in place with tulips. Sprung closer, the

    rhododendrons inflamed within arbours  
    only had been  
    with thousands of poplars forming  
                                 river calm. Shall give flow

                                 to palisade between my fingers an unvaried spectrum  
by these seem narrow tract among all swarming conduits.

## FERAL STRAIN

Severed within by affray,  
torn shadows pooling as if themselves  
behind or yield as would flourish.

Sunlight hissing in the branches.  
Ferns crowding into flesh. My bloodstream  
seeks horizon. Swayed moment at pace

across or fasten against as ever far  
between the skyline and water-meadow bleached  
with light (an ornamental tapestry

surrounding then enfolding). Lean against or into  
where darkness sprung from every corner  
as if covers now yet seemed more gentle I

taste the air unsettled  
and released to ebb.

## LARVA

The sun-debris of fringes to begin or end  
from any closer did wings shed pollen without  
array streamed into graze or glints to fasten  
a distance between as skyline folds over me.

Within foaming with restless flow in skin  
the field a heavy light now glowing as fuses. I kneel  
between the trees on sandy ground where poppies

open can still feel grass  
feeding through or away

as ever. The nettles spectral  
on all sides gird

the river over angled by these, the willows  
divided to reveal a print of muddy clouds grown  
silent. Collapse inwards there beyond have

thread with blossom seamed  
into dense walls of foliage.