

Terry Trowbridge

Minnow eyes

How do the minnows
keep their eyes open
in icy October water?
Their onyx bubbles are impervious
to the knuckle popping cold
while they swim past my slow fingers
into the darkness beyond my knees.
The minnows flicker out of sight
into a stone cauldron with its
thickening rumors of hibernating predators
and the security of darkness surrounding
their own miniature thoughts.
Minnow eyes open into the currents,
in the dark, if not to see,
then to feel the hypothermic pulse
of Winter's return.