

## OBJECTS AND ARROWS

*...I will smite every horse with astonishment,  
and his rider with madness Zechariah 12:4*

### NAME

Among weeds and waters  
alongside insects I,  
category theorist, tried  
to enter a world less  
wet more lyrical.

A child at play among pictures  
admires the curve of the bow,  
the arrowing elegant arc above the  
earth-shaped horizons...

I among horizons played.

My fear of water equaled my fear  
of horses, I was awash in fears—  
my feet were wet, waters stolen,  
dripping clepsydra-threatened  
timed and timid adventure.

### NUMBER

I learned to love while learning to draw it  
the numeral 5; I tried to perfect its arcs and angles;  
elementary scholar, I wrote letters and dates;  
I arithmetized.

## STORY

My uncle the seafarer slept in water  
the color of mosquitoes (aunts and  
uncles a class of people prone to  
stories to naming  
things after themselves).

\*

Aristotle's classes of things that can  
be named, can be: *katagoria. Praedicamenta.*

Shipboard libraries. Each of us keeps packed  
a sack of necessities—things nameable  
this was the age of radiation  
and fear of the future.

## NUMBER

"By reason of time we count By reason of  
space we measure By reason of matter we weigh"

I did my arithmetic curving the belly  
of the five, keeping its angular origin sharp.

My toy bow, my sharp arrows for Christmas,  
my targets and tangents lost;  
but once I did pull strings and launch  
random messages.

This was the age of fear  
of radiation, of radicals.

## PICTURE

Greek and German ground into  
English; mélange, my mind wanders.  
why not notice  
the things you notice, consider  
the things you don't? beneath vision  
is virtue, too.

*Imagine* means see a picture;  
i.e. a boy on a horse  
along a cliff along a river beneath  
a sky above a past

something which is is said in many ways.

## NUMBER

Of the earth's water, found and made,  
ninety six per cent is sea water  
two percent groundwater two  
percent ice

which leaves vapor, rain in progress,  
tears, the famous human body bundling  
a negligible percent, a body  
worn that way, casual and seductive.

\*

Starring, asterisked, risked.

This was an age of risk, of uranium  
fortunes.

\*

To describe a thing is to inform, form

*to measure the amount of information in an object  
measure the length of the description of the object*

### ANIMALS IMAGINED

A boy on a horse,  
A boy on a horse along a river.  
Less simple—time intervenes thieftish.  
A boy on a horse in the rain along a river.  
A picture emerges from mist—faint rain  
hiding the regnant risk arrowing rain,  
boy lost on a horse in the rain along a river,  
a high bluff beside water. Story.  
The bit firm in the horse's mouth  
the hand of the boy unfirm.  
*Tremble.*

\*

Measure in words, syllables, letters.  
Measure the height of a horse in hands,  
human hands  
which tremble.

\*

What we played we played, dangerous  
only in retrospect.  
If it can be remembered  
it was survived.  
Cowboys and Indians,  
inelegant era of imagined  
real horses in radiant landscape;  
only the rivers remain.