JAMES PATE

Mineral Planet #32

In Chicago, nearing the end of the millennium / corridors of statuary and cephalopods / biographies of luminescent fungi /

Ornate dinners among the Warhol wigs /

Our walls of tumbling floral wallpaper / our stairwell of yellow night / mineral angels drawing roses on their pelvises / air changing into light, breath into dissonance / the window bloodied from mistaken birds / the gray man finding his way below us, into waiting basements / smelling of wind and sea spray / leaving iron-gray hair in our coats /

Narcotic speeches at turquoise parties / funerals at the Gulf / balmy ventures through the pines / moths enfolded in the wet black garments / statues with underwater eyes /

Flecks of fire emerging from angel tongues /

Without foresight or design / into lacy black waves

Sun as cold as the moon /

Among these ashes and crepuscular tattoos /

Drifting into one another, intertwining and shredding out / tableaux of rotting fruit dripping through numbed fingers /