

then in the room beyond  
his son's bedroom hanging  
above the waterbed a mobile  
bobbing in the orange air  
several sets of wings with  
feathers folded back  
some with wide span and brown  
some tiny sets in ebony  
while  
balancing the wings were  
spent shotgun shells  
charred around the edges  
he was a young son  
who had put together  
a thing of beauty  
to sleep beneath

#### HEARTBEAT

a sweet woman lives nextdoor.  
she's married to a busy doctor who never  
pays her no mind,  
he just keeps her in silver thins & cold cream.

I can hear her arguing with the gods  
while throwing fresh eggs against the shower walls  
to loosen the knots of her frustrations.  
it is a bad scene.

lately, the talk up & down the block is,  
that some action will have to be initiated,  
maybe lock her in a bell-tower.  
she has all the local kids

gathered about her  
and involved in her practice.  
she roams the tract,  
stethoscope dangling about her neck

hunting for dogs to examine:  
st. bernards, beagles, danes, pomeranians.  
she listens to their heartbeats.  
i think it is funny.

the topper is,  
that the residents around here aren't  
worried about their children, no,  
but about their dogs.

what concerns me is the poetry of her  
operations. what does she hear when she puts  
the scope up under the dog's belly?  
is there something special about a heartbeat?

-- John Kay

Long Beach CA

### The Whales of Albuquerque

Two cottonwood trees.  
The bugs and the wind  
Have carried away the bark.

They are very white  
With age.  
They rest by the river  
Waiting for a chance  
To jump in.

### Ode To Sobriety

this sweet darkness  
free of bruises

the woman behind the bar  
surprised to find out  
my eyes are brown

she smiles and pours  
another shot  
of whiskey

-- Carl Mayfield

Albuquerque NM

### POOR TROCHI

poor Trochi  
poor Mimi Trochi  
she is probably the handsomest woman I have seen  
and young too, still young,  
she keeps running into traps,  
twice in the madhouse,  
married, shacked and deserted