

my mothers fingers smelling
of mint on the raft

people crying all the
way to pittsford

PHOTOGRAPH

this one's at a
tilt no people
in it really 2
white cats the
ones saved when
we moved from
the stucco house
to the apartment
on main street
gave the fluffy
one to nanny the
grass needs a
cutting some
one's shape be
hind the etched
front glass as
unclear lost
as the year this
was or what wld
happen finally
to these white
cats that had
come on my 6th
birthday after i
dreamed they did

HEAT WAVE

after the mist burns
off the whole
house starts dripping
smells you hadn't

smelled for years
the hall where
a rat died old
flies smells

like chunks of
ugly times you want
to forget july
your man sneaks

around on you
sneaks the steiglitz
prints out of
the closet

coming back in
dreams like the
smell of the
rat thats gone

KYOTO

someone sweeping
leaves with a
straw broom

incense sticks
in the reeds

huge leaves
on the water

ADIRONDACK

1

chickadees nut
hatches junco
at night a pair
of ducks beaver
pushing arrow
heads in the
black lake

2

blue herons
otters near
the dock
one climbs

the granite,
trout clamped
in its jaws
so quiet you
can hear the
bones crunch

NEBRASKA THEN

sod houses

no trees the
land hard

as the men the
women who

came here
had to be

COLORADO

one man went in
to the mountains
ate all his friends
now there's a
grill named
after him

NORTH DAKOTA

geese in the
black holes

prairie marsh
the stretch

from up there
like black swiss

cheese wetlands
sticks a cross

the water huge
nests in them

THE WOMAN WHO LOVED HER HOUSE

because it was wood
and admitted it
because it didn't yell
back except nights
with the black walnuts
banging on the window
it wasn't jealous
of her mother it wasn't
pissed off by the
new cat she could
go to sleep in flannel
and be sure it would
be there in the morning

THE LIFSHIN MUSEUM

this is where she
slept and smelled
rats under the
purple. the water
was loudest in
march. now the
room is smaller
the purple orchid
peels to grey.
these sags in the
bed the yellow
dress letters
coins from a
country that
never was

HOUSE

no door fits
holes in the floor

night comes thru a
hole in the window

the cat runs in and
out the moon the