

WISHING TO WHAT

Sunken eyes

Like treasure in a ship

Unable to be retrieved

Take a deep breath

Dive in

Recover the worth within

Faces streaked

Like lilies of Monet

Caught in a sudden screaming storm

Drape my arms

Sober mouths

Like pensive passion of virgin love

Wonder whether to cry or sigh

Rest my mouth

On those mouths

Pour into them sips of life's breath

Bodies shaken

Like mistaken hardness of touches

Too tough to take

Wrap myself

Around theirs, within theirs

Restore strength stripped by sickness

—Barbara Irwin