

At night the glass reflects the crescent moon

At night the glass reflects the crescent moon
I shudder as it dances upon my face
A taste like loud art
If only I could complete absolute persistence
Because the beauty of the darkness draws me in
I hear Death is a scarecrow
That he hides his weakness with vile fear
I hear his tiger weave growls.

—Various

[Editors' Note: The poems on this and the following two pages were collaboratively written by various authors as part of a collaborative poetry workshop conducted in Stuart Lishan's Honors Introduction to Poetry course in Spring 2019. As he explains the collaboration:

This particular assignment was a group poem, in which the squad leader read a number of poems out loud, by poets as varied as Kenneth Patchen and Emily Dickinson. When commandos heard a word that they felt/thought was a "fresh usual word" in one of these poems, they wrote it down on "word tickets." Then the commandos put the squad members in groups, and each group member started a poem with a line, and then passed the budding poem along to another group member, who wrote another line, and then passed it to the next group member, and so on, thus creating a number of poems, round-robin fashion. There were some parameters and suggestions for each line, one of which was to use at least one of these "fresh usual words" per line. Such means of composition as this have been used by a number of poets in the modern and contemporary era -- who used collage, serendipity, and the like -- to create poems of surprise and explosive awareness, often with rich textures both emotionally and intellectually. You can see the results of our English 2260H poetry commandos gracing the pages of this fine magazine. Enjoy, but, I must warn you, dear reader, beware as well: Lines and images from these poems may just blow your mind, as well as heal your heart.

*Authors in the English 2260H Poetry Commando Squad include: **Nick Clark, Miles Grooms, Sonny Grooms, Nina Huang, Devin Lutz, Jacob Moratt, Lily Noftz, Andrew Quakenbush, Megan Rodas, and Hannah Ziegler.**]*