

The Bridge 2009 – *Honorable Mention*

Juley Harvey - Estes Park, CO

livin' on the streets

what does
livin' on the streets
do to you?
it's a trash-can treasures,
raised-by -the- wolves,
bus-bench bed, garbage-bag head,
rain-draining
sort of thing,
where you forget
which faucet
turns the cold water on,
how to get a proper haircut,
how to buy a pair of shoes,
what it's like to ride in a car,
or have a social conversation
over dinner.
you forget what
your mama taught you,
and others forget you,
see you as a piece
(not de resistance)
but of the sidewalk,
an animated statue,
pigeons alighting,
a slave to the penny cup,
bottle brown bag,
if they see you at all.
you buy your freedom
with yesterday's piece of mind,
small fillet of soul.
it's cold, it's the flesh made blues.
you're there as history's fact;
when we get there, it's tomorrow's news.