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## Glass Blossom

Dennis Smith

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## Glass Blossom

In the grade school garden  
 where we were innocently waiting  
 for each new life lust,  
 and all went single file to Stephen's house,  
 whose parents' snowy television showed us images  
 of the cloud-swelling fear, the fireball fiend,  
 the shock that tore the roofs off barracks  
 like light paper planes blown off a shelf  
 by an opened door,

Glass blossom of my time,  
 window of the third grade upper story  
 bursting inward like some film-slowed flower,  
 flowering into this room,  
 blooming in each inch of us  
 huddled under the desks of even the second floor—  
 this crystal-sharded blossom  
 of the third grade window bursting inward,  
 filling my mind, lacing all these faces  
 with a glassy wind to burst us at the roots,

I have no comprehension of the authors  
 of this crime, this mime of death,  
 this mime of life, this last mime  
 of my own embryo curling,  
 with hands and arms covering my eyes and innocence—  
 only my own child, who has blue eyes,  
 kneeling on the couch beside me now.  
 Am I to wipe out, too, this face  
 with the pain of a glance,  
 the pain of a midday, white-hot moment,  
 burning out these all-too-innocent  
 and unaffected eyes?

—Dennis Smith

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Dennis Smith is a sculptor and poet living in Highland, Utah.