

LONG ISLAND

Q U A R T E R L Y

featuring



*Saul Bennett
Gerald So
David Napolin
Gayl Teller
Lawrence Carradini
Kim Bridgford
Rob Plath
Eric Hamel
Joan Higuchi
Bertha Rogers
Orel Protopopescu
Stephanie Sears
E E de'Pazzi
Dennis Saleh
Roy Schoenberg
Barbara Goldowsky
Joan Peternel
Stefanie Lipsey
Yolanda Coulaz
Ellen Rosenthal Ferguson*

Spring 2003

FIREFLIES TO THE MOON

The twilight night of Chichicasteñango blinks.
Like airport traffic across the hills,
fireflies spin by the high round moon
that bathes in mist.

Often this white madness comes,
rending the dimness of the sky
with its cyclical prosperity,
then thins out of sight.

Crouched by a leaden puddle,
he is poetry's lonely bloom
unjustified by prose.
Dark and soft, he mistrusts English:
a pallid figment which
skims over ripples like a water-skiier.

My magic is suspended,
for too easily could I stare
into his Olmec face
when he vows to the ivory daze,
until ring upon ring toward far-flung echoes,
a blacker spell was cast upon us.

He flickers by the fluid moon.
The boy's full, mystic pleasure
changes to a man's tight rage
for he has no shoes, no roof,
his pride has sunk so far
beneath the guilt of youth.

STEPHANIE SEARS
New York, NY