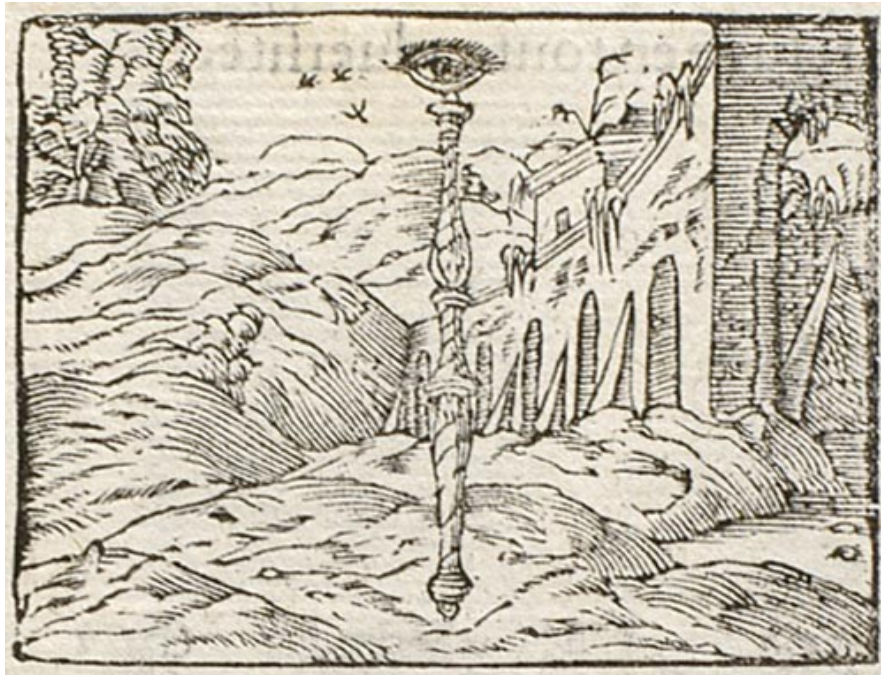


Alejandro de Acosta

Joshua Beckman



Poem Summaries
vol. 1

A Pot of Earth

Jules Supervielle

A plant takes a trip on a boat, satisfying itself and the crew.

The Red Wheelbarrow

William Carlos Williams

After some foul weather, a New Jersey man feels a heightened appreciation for an item in his yard.

The Shells

Paul Valéry

While in a grotto, a Frenchman becomes
troubled by some shells.

First Fig

Edna St. Vincent Millay

The owner of a miraculous candle is proud
indeed.

The Lady to Answer directly with Yea or Nay
Thomas Wyatt

A man who is interested in the affections of a lady offers her only two options.

anyone lived in a pretty how town
e.e. cummings

Life went on prosaically around a guy in a town—men, women and children enjoying the pageant of life, getting what was theirs, ending in dreams.

“A Dying Tiger—moaned for Drink—”

Emily Dickinson

A young New England woman comes upon a dehydrated tiger. She goes to find water but it's too late—he dies of thirst. It wasn't anyone's fault!

Great Man Sleeping in A Closet

d.a. levy

A guy from Ohio describes his relationship with a Buddhist teacher, recounting a number of enigmatic comments and concluding with an enigmatic comment of his own.

Place of the Salamander

Yves Bonnefoy

A small amphibian plays dead and is thus unable to evade becoming a symbol of all that is sublime.

Poem

Frank O'Hara

While hurriedly walking through New York on an inclement day, a guy sees that a famous actress has fallen over and comments on his own youthful fortitude, while beseeching the lady to rise.

The Singing Cat

Stevie Smith

What begins as the voyage of a domestic animal concludes as a successful musical.

Moonshine

Jackson MacLow

The moon makes a guy rhyme and feel like he is stoned.

“I built a thatched hut deep in the clouds...”

Stonehouse

An old guy stays in his hut so long he doesn't know how long he has stayed in his hut.

Often I am Permitted to Return to a Meadow

Robert Duncan

A pastoral spring sunset once again suggests philosophical and mythological reveries.

I Never Kept Sheep

Alberto Caeiro

A Portuguese guy considers how much what he does is like being a shepherd and nearly becomes one in the process.

A Supermarket in California

Allen Ginsberg

While under the spell of something he read, a shopper becomes ecstatic with the goings-on and stuff in a supermarket.

So & So Reclining On Her Couch

Wallace Stevens

Mrs. Pappadoupoulos is deserving of the poet's gratitude; he got to look at a painting that kept him pretty busy. Gave him many projections (A,B, and C) plus an Idea.

On a Daffodil: The First Flower the Author Has Seen That Year

Samuel Johnson

A guy talks to a daffodil about how great it is, at first trying to be encouraging, but then remembering that it will die and soon will he.

*The Epilogue Spoken to the King at the Opening
of the Playhouse at Oxford on Saturday last,
being March the Nineteenth, 1681*

John Dryden

Telescopic appreciations lead a poet to announce with grandiosity that everyone should have fun at the theater, especially the king.

“Hesterno, Licini...”

Catullus

A Roman guy writes to his friend Licinius, remembering all the fun they had swapping verses. He’s excited to see Licinius again so he writes a poem, hoping for another hangout.

Convergence of the Many
René Char

An extraterrestrial and his human friend enjoy
a high five.

The nurse-life wheat
Fulke Greville

Grain is amazing!
Caelica, come look!

The Fish, the Man, and the Spirit
Leigh Hunt

To A Fish

A man seems indignant that a fish is not a man.

A Fish Answers

The fish is equally repulsed.

*The Fish Turns into a Man,
And Then into a Spirit,
and Again Speaks*

An astonishing transformation resolves the dispute on a theological level.

[mufa :: poema]