



Image from Selfabet.

Ivan Arguelles

A CAREER IN POETRY

**statues of snow irregular verbs
sidestepping from the moon
nights shifting vowels archaic
sudden the once of always and
watching graze slowly the deer
the feldspar the underbrush
planets unnamed becoming red
bright larger than a man's thought
about the afterlife a goddess
shaped from an air of marble
lessons in an afternoon tongue
how to and wherefore and why
girls behind plate glass playing
at wistful their hair full blown
sicilian carmine saturated with
light or the verdigris reciting
platelets unfounded pronouns
hasp of the back wavering dark**

**inching the frame of a form
shadowing of memory verse
told to re-enact the blind sea
vertigo wine-deep swooning
in the absence of mirrors ink
billowing cloud-like over
image of what is to achieve
if not the final vowel :
musk ivory drum and tin
did not ever the crescent
and waning stars the distance
what is to sing what is to die
longing dawn over hills rising
dappled rose the fingered cloud
evanescent as ever until fade
the pale a life margins white
burning quietly in stone years
ancient coming full circle from
what started in a blade of grass
winding through a wish of light
into the vast and enigmatic
Unknown the**

Ivan Arguelles is the author of numerous books of poetry, most recently *La interrupción conversacional* and *Orphic Cantos*. He received a lifetime achievement award from the Before Columbus Foundation in 2013. His 1989 book *Looking for Mary Lou* received the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America.