



Image from Brianna Johnson

Ruth Berman

Infrared Show

To the infrared watcher
Thoughts are fireworks
Explosions of light/heat here

At the word red
And there at the color

Cerebellum twinkling with desire

Arithmetic in phosphorescent gleams
Lighting up the grey

At parties the infrared observer asks
"What's the meaning of life?"
"What's wrong with the world?"
"Why do mirrors reverse from left to right
But not from up to down?" —
And oohs to see the answers
Bursting in the skull

Lawn Dream

Someone seasaped a pool
In the front yard.
A red octopus drifts along the sidewalk.

Some kind of croc with silver scales —
Kind of undersized, but it might be young
Or maybe a cayman —
Chugs methodically wall to wall and back again
Over the grasses.
It likes it if the mail-carrier
Leans down to scratch the ridge along its spine.
It doesn't snap.

Former dandelions become starfish
Arranging themselves in zodiacs.

Luminous jellyfish break the surface
Then fall like parachutes.

Limpets are working
At covering the basement windows.

Ruth Berman's work has appeared in many general and literary magazines. Her novel *Bradamant's Quest* was published by FTL Publications (Minnesota). Recent publications

include work in *The Rockford Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *American Jewish World*, *Illuminations*, and *Dreams & Nightmares*.