poetry

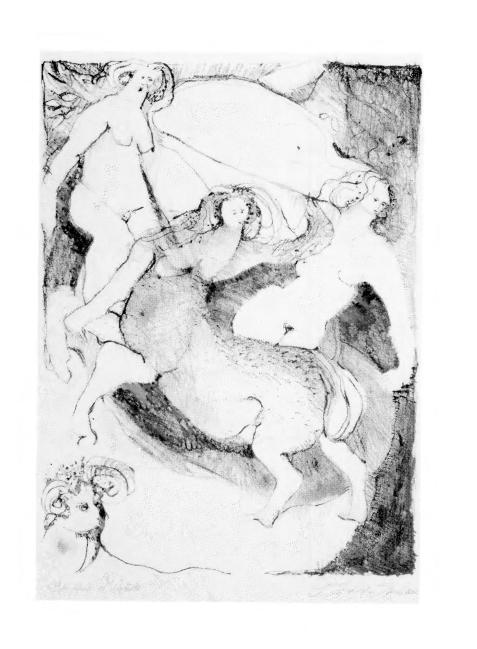
a solo voice shreds a cacophony of tickertape and ultra-sonics rises to cloud level and plays out a line of melody like the tail of a kite

plunges

then soars again attacked by an extravaganza of starlings

breaks away with violin wail of ecstasy that steadies into harmony modulates

and finally returns to sender bringing a feather of fine rain like an answered prayer



dance

a net flings wide the fishers sweat and pull and in the moon's dull gleam the glistening mesh surfaces knotted with fireflies

deft fingers now release their golden prize mend gaps

and swiftly send this gauze trap fluting skirt-like out again

one solitary weathered man casts a single line that arcs

balancing in air

he holds a light aloft and gives a silent shout as hook catches

reel plays out and quick-silver rainbow trout thrashes and leaps

riffling a chain of crystal drops that pulls at his hunter's heart

ripples and mayflies meet in a resinous mist meet part and shape the coming of the day



music

at first weapons
wait in quietness —
cupped hollowed pierced and strung
oiled gleaming —
to be plucked

struck or blown into a battalion
of bristling artillery
benign gunfire
a rattle of sabres
shrill whine of shells
as into the tattoo arena
high above the crowd
swings a wild trapeze
suspending froms that loose
ah! — cross and somersault in space

now on a quivering wire teeters a tightrope walker will he stay? will he fall? he trips

alas-s-s-s

even as he drops

safe into the net a human cannon-ball rises like a shooting star an explosion of pigeons slaps at the sawdust air in burst after burst of color

a string of horses gallops round the ring quick-twirling ballerinas on their backs who trail from elegant fingers a fragrance of bird-song that touches down light as milkweed seed to drift

like a benediction among the weary soldiers

paddy webb