Freedom

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Freedom

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Second Prize Winner

Freedom

The gentle,
raindrop
drumming of
fluorescent wings
stretched across
a violet canvass,
feverishly pumping,
dodging swiping nets
and chubby fingers,
higher and farther from
chaos.

--Veronica McGlynn

Third Prize Winner

We almost died climbing the falls
and I loved it
smiles of exhilaration nearly cracked our heads in halves
gallons of blood tried to escape my skin
  pulsing &
  pushing
  from behind my sternum and shoulder blades
I remember you sitting on the cold cement step of the arts &
crafts lodge
  when we came back down the mountain
  yelling
  spinning circles in grass that had never been so green
as then
I wanted to sit with you
  but I couldn’t
I had to run
  spin
  yell
you laughed with us, at us, whichever
and laughing said to me in that offhand way of yours
  --as if it didn’t matter--
  “You’re cute”

--Monica Bradbury