

5 Flashes of Light

by John Champion

i

Science dishes up bombgeists,
defense measures,
the pay off:
Powersurge,
the payment: BLACKOUT.

ii

To light what I cannot say
 before going out
a five-year old's artpiece:
the bomb and the sun
 on opposite sides
 falling
 caught in a strobe:
the sun growing smaller
the bomb larger
 everywhere
trapped on freakish sides
still standing
 wind
 all fall down.

iii

With opposing patches
of black and white
 forever etched
into her back—
the dual colored florals
from Yoko's printed dress
 live on
 in more than
 memory.

iv

From out the hole
torn in the fabric of history...

“Fire?

We gave it back to the Gods—
each of us a sacrificial candle,
incandescent in August
and burning yes burning.

v

Now a plague over the water
bursts with the candor
of chrysanthemums.

On the Colorado
paper boats full of candles
float

down the river
to reclaim the gray spirits.

A man with red hair and freckles
sings in Japanese.

Somewhere
are tall buildings covered with shadows
but no bodies to make them.