

# 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.