

After Steven Hughes' "Her Name is Alice"

Recovery Lesson
when tulips appear

awake all night
searching the false bottom
of darkness

nothing here but blindness
am I leaving or staying
or floating on exhaustion
under the level of tears

in the dense foliage
of adverbs and nouns
cancer presses us
against the *whys*

the immensity of a day
to walk in the universe
toward some unknown goal,
the ocean in my cells

to begin again
describe the light
touch tomorrow

Anita Pinatti
(Enfield, CT)
Juror's Choice Award #3

