

## POETRY

### **The Language of Smooth Bodies**

the language of smooth bodies  
is quick cool slippery-tongued  
syllables flash myriad sunspots  
darting beneath bones shimmering  
with echoes of vibrating flesh

eyes glaze an inner vision  
voiced in whispers of blood  
trickling into words gliding  
on the current, pale forms slithering  
into each other, holding shapes  
brief as scudding cloud shadows

slender ribs curve above caged breath  
rippling flesh with a sigh ebbing  
and swelling in sparkling circles  
undulating on waves of sound  
rising, plunging into silence

the language of smooth bodies  
transforms the universe with reverberations  
of a thousand-petalled lotus  
unfolding, scenting the air  
as it fleshes forth its essential song

— *Amanda Hale*