

**earth's back**

when the earth's back broke  
no human was there to see it  
nor the Dioskouroi racing across  
steppes on wild horses

only Kybele mother of the gods  
lions beside her, tame as Egyptian  
Bast, curl purr warming the snowy  
ravages of her hair

ants were orienteering spurs  
and ridges of earth's rib cage  
recently heaved above the sink hole  
the Siberian wind was sharp

all earth's heat was burning forests  
cities long gone but for skeletons  
of concrete and steel, an occasional  
heart beat was heard odd footprints

on dusty pavements, along coasts  
new cliffs rising out of smashing seas  
rough as the west coast of Ireland  
Kybele walked and hummed a tune

mountains followed behind like waves  
clouds made new silhouettes  
a comet passed by streaming hair  
as Kybele sang quills of hope

*Susan Hawthorne*

Susan Hawthorne. 'earth's back'.  
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