
Greensboro Campus Sonnet

Those seconds that the couple's kissing lasts,
an embarrassment of riches, so you look away,
then back, until by itself looking makes its
judgment: joy, then awkwardness, some sentence
in the mind interrupted. And the season
interrupted, from inward to this turning—
first crocuses and the lavender called redbud,
stunning girls with Walkmans wired and skating,
and heraldry of diamond shapes of birds against
the shielded, shielding brightness of the sky.
And old and loving rain thinking of starting,
whose scent is on the air, invisible flowering.
And yellow, then the red dress of the sun.
Love's cracked, healed-over cup full at the lip.

Stanley Plumly read at Grand Valley State University's Poetry Night in October 2007. His work has been honored with the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award and nominations for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the William Carlos Williams Award, and the Academy of American Poets' Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. His most recent work includes Old Heart: Poems and Posthumous Keats: A Personal Biography. He is currently a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland. These poems are reprinted by permission of the author.