

## **When Redwoods Came to the World's Fair**

When redwoods came to the World's Fair  
international bluebird  
ghost-dancing cross country  
flimflamming on the planet drum

Sentimental bullshit  
jettisoned in the Wikieup sandtrap  
but musical beds matter of course —  
some mornings the whole bus would shake

Barbary Coast to Hudson Valley  
Pershing Square to Times Square  
New Jersey turnpike in the wee wee hours  
North Beach to Village La Honda to Millbrook

Somewhere between beatnik and hippie  
Ginsberg, Kerouac and their brother,  
the speed freak behind the wheel,  
passing the Boho Wand to Captain

Swashbuckler, navigator  
in chief, famed for having made it past  
Scylla, Charybdis, Big Nurse,  
Sirens and CIA

To catch the I.F.-I.F. coming down  
from contemplating lotus to lotus  
the means to scriptural aspirations  
on Mellon mansion estate grounds

Foregoing the opportunity  
to visualize angels on Harleys  
morning glories in their grimy beards  
chanting mantras and meditating

Half a year after Huxley passed through  
the doors of perception for the last time  
on his own acid test and JFK  
went out with a bullet through his skull

Six months before Harlow and Billy the Kid  
went down on each other on stage  
rattling public decency cages

Puget Sound to the Back Bay

*La Pieta* in Flushing Meadows  
flashbulbs on a moving sidewalk  
better living through chemistry  
futurama alone with your thoughts

Ceremonies of innocence  
Bodhisattva's vow on the tongue  
*om mani padme hum*  
*yab yum yum yum*