

## AUTUMN IS NOT A SEASON

but a gaudy arena where Summer and Winter  
collide    Where  
a played out princess falls  
to a truculent new monarch    Thrown  
out of her palace overnight    a moat  
of black asters surrounding it    ice  
bars at the windows    gray  
shades down    smog stationed  
on the perimeter to keep sun  
from spying on the new regime    a ready  
fusillade of sleet to keep  
subjects bowing    Summer  
retreats to regroup  
between Capricorn and Cancer    And you  
must shed your ripe skin to blend with snow