

JAKE KENNEDY

BEAST OF CHAUVET

Defenestrate the Macy's mannequins
and all of the Koons travesties
in honour of her ursine skull on the Chauvet plinth
unfathomable head tunnel
once tried to eat stars and absorb them in cave-bear brain
stay inside, live in my ever-dark, go like shadow, blurs

avoid all ideas, don't think up drive-ins,
or how to digitize the aurora borealis and the majesties
of meteor showers falling to synthy soundtracks
preserve the red alarms of the salmon in their cold runnels
how she finds them flapping every year in sun and rain
on this same escalator of water

a samurai queen, wrapped in undulate furs
in her pocket a tin box of tobacco, a draft of a song
charting a hawk's disdain above a hungry pack of curs
and a recipe for fish and berry stew—before the world went wrong.