Where Has All the Laughter Gone?

by Jerry Ratch

The despair that comes and goes is here again
I saw a woman who was holding herself
As she walked past, as if a fire were about to
Lunge out of her parts
She was in such great need of being held

The despair that comes and goes is here again Life's other goal ought to be laughter Not any laughter, but the pure oxygen of laughter Only that which takes away the breath But sustains you anyway