

# jewels

by Kitty Boots

to eat the heart of a hummingbird  
still beating  
while crimson drops of blood fall  
to the nest

it is said to make your manliness last forever  
and I've seen these birds  
faded metallic crusts of what they once were  
laid out on a table  
entwined into necklaces of brown, toothless *curanderos*

to make their women want them more  
washing clothes in the coffee-colored river  
nursing fevered children

as they search for emeralds among the stones

