

## CEREMONY OF LEAVES

the maples, oak, pine, larch, bur acorn  
cataract as their death  
clouds the season of profusion  
for the variegated islands  
the magellanic endless sea voyages  
their leaves know no confusion  
the autumn burn only confounds  
the fire starters and alarms  
the acute detectives who smell human  
as all the delight of children  
in a waterfall into the leaves of life  
into deepening backyards of hearts  
that frighten the screaming hidiers  
under the tarantulas of leaves  
play hide and seek and ghost  
leaps out to break the spell of smoke  
for no scholars come to pick them up  
to take them to the ceremony of leaves  
that leaves no one unturned, unburned,  
and, as color vanishes, undead