

WHY DOES DISORDER INCREASE
IN THE SAME DIRECTION OF TIME
AS THAT IN WHICH THE UNIVERSE
EXPANDS*

It has something to do
with looking down the blouse
of the girl painting the boat, tracing
in a second the curve, wanting
to slip a hand between cotton
and her warm skin.

Or seeing a glint of sun
off the window opening across
the bay, calculating the speed
with which the reflection
skims across water.

The girl runs her hand
through her hair, the immemorial
action, this time arrested
as she spots the hummingbird
taking its hovering time
to sample each larkspur blossom.

Or the oil storage tanks
across the water, seeing
them ignite,
silently, the shrapnel
already on its way here.

*See S. Hawking, New Scientist, July 9, 1987, p. 46.