

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.