

Ugly Love

*Pretty love seems fake,
like a bowl in an art gallery
only for display.*

Give me ugly love
wet-faced, screaming, crying love
grisly, horrid, unseemly love
that persists, agape, despite it all.

Give me Sweet Cruel Mother
Loving Wrathful Father
Generous Using Sister
Comforting Distant Brother

Give me their pittances and gushing exuberances
the good and bad
life saving
a homeless man's blanket

Give me love which must be endured
all kisses and slaps
scabs and cicatrix.
The knife doesn't scare me
I know I can forgive anything.

*Unfired clay can't hold water.
Without flames
the bowl just dissolves.*