

Spring 2010

## Untitled Photograph 6

Jacki Byler

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“Ashtabula does not have a drug problem”  
The police told a friend of mine  
as her two year old daughter looked on curiously  
at a strung out stranger who wandered into their home  
and took their bathroom hostage for two hours

He shook uncontrollably  
His eyes overflowing with emptiness  
By the time the cops showed up, he was long gone  
tossed back into the river

The fish in this water have nothing to lose  
If evolution is true, we can sprout legs and lungs  
crawl onto dry land and breathe  
but the current prevents it here

It's hard to see the glass as half full  
when you can't drink the water  
I suppose we could drink the wine instead  
and stumble inside of a bridge  
seeking shelter from the toxic rain

Jacki Byler

