

CYPRESS FORESTS

Gall rancors, rounding in on itself.
Woman left is callused hard.
Balloon beads string together
& amplify wrong for all to see.
Tumor trees swell to safety
bitten by insect bitter.
Bandages always show.
White flags are held high,
defying each heart surrender.
Fear is rheumatic armor,
amplifying uneven,
lonely, gnarled, dark
at the edge of the ocean.

—Dr. Bonnie Raingruber