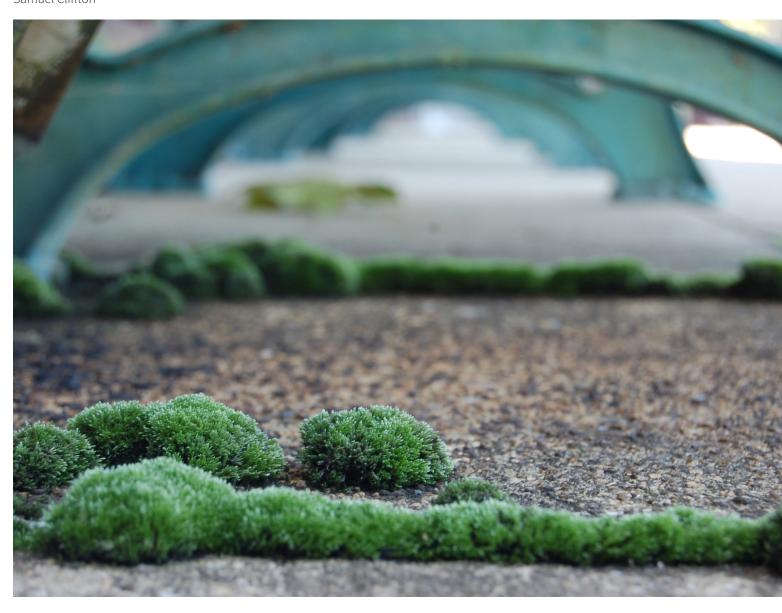
UntitledSamuel Cliffton



Once Upon a Dream

POEM BY ANNETTE CASHATT

Once upon a dream

I walked a path of cracked stones and rotting stalks of vegetation

But I always found the sky

Bursting scarlet embers, streaked with violet, tranquil blues fading in black Once upon a dream The cosmos sang to me A nebulae, filled with millions of stars And trillions of atoms

Lit the night as fireflies do in a fog Guiding me on my way

Once upon a dream
In trying to find the way off the path
I passed under a weeping willow
And failed to see the cobweb

Nobody had warned me and I did not know better So the web clung to me

Once upon a dream
The sun rose
I saw a gathering of dust particles suspended in a beam of sunshine

But touching them added one more layer Stratified my being

Once upon a dream Time began to devour my soul, as time will When I looked, the sky was gone The path was constricted

And signs written by the hands of others told me where to go and how Their commands reverberated through my mind as a drum

Once upon a dream The world was smaller My vision narrowed

As I stared through a porthole, shrinking in diameter each day

Once upon a dream I realized that starving my soul Only fed the teeth of time And the world is vaster than anyone imagines

I grew smaller, not the world

