

*Julie Herrick White*

## **The Body of the World**

*A Collage*

The body of the world shares its hurts with  
mountains and oceans, and plenty of green  
algae exist to soak up the pain,

yet certain cries are always picked up  
by the small and unpretentious ears of groundhogs.

Indians howl and jump off the edges of  
movie screens, refusing to play their parts

while the arms of anonymous women weave  
bandages with leftover strips of sky.

And all the world's eyes gather in one dead  
Siamese cat by the side of the road, eyes still  
orange in the headlights.

Eyes still orange, and the tails of all comic strip  
dogs wagging infinitely,

**these are the body of the world,**

including mice and teeth and grasshoppers  
and children's navels that tighten when they  
cry out.

**These are the body of the world**

including the grey marshmallow feet of  
elephants, sick to death of walking.

