

# Bodies Approaching Rest

*by Gary Hardaway*

## **Morphology**

He hates this body no less now  
than he did at 14 for its pudginess  
and the hair that can't conform

to the elegant standards set by peers.  
He hate the tags, fatty deposits, and the bulges  
whiskey and wine leave

after the brief relief they bring.  
Aging is a special challenge  
for those perennially depressed.

## **As You Grow More Deaf**

When you can't quite hear  
the poems whispered by  
the random voices in your head,

you know that other ears, younger  
and more sensitive, can hear them,  
however softly breathed.

So, you breathe your own,  
eager to continue with something  
the indifferent page will bear.

## **End Game**

Enthusiasms wane,  
focus fades,  
appetites wither

as the world  
you still embrace  
erases its maps.

The pieces disappear, one by one.  
The almost solitary king  
considers its resignation.

