

## *Bayou Mirror*

IRIS LITT

At first on the island  
I gushed my amazement  
at this mirror of a bayou

delaying the day  
when I would have to acknowledge:  
high tides don't wash happiness ashore  
seabirds are diving for food not fun

Everything reflected in the bayou is real:  
the house with the barking dog  
the house with the quarrelling couple  
the dying tree

but reality can't erase beauty

and nature is still innocent  
like a beautiful young woman with no mirror  
so she doesn't know she's beautiful