

## AMONG ANCIENT THINGS

In an arid land  
of gastroliths  
and squid noses,  
life persists,  
twists through juniper,  
pokes out of yucca,  
tangles in mountain mahogany,  
hides snakelike  
under lichen-eaten stone,  
sweeps with noonday sun  
through brittle bunch grass,  
and sings in the hot, sand-  
whisked silence.

*Randall Gloege*