

## On the USS Albatross

This is our ship  
various as a city  
intimate as a village  
less like a nation  
more like a world  
with all the possibilities  
of neighbor and friend

This is our ship  
swift in the currents  
winds behind us  
but in frigid seas  
and dark wintry North  
it grinds through  
excruciating ice

This is our ship  
We will not get another

If we cannot pull together  
our lips will dry and split  
our tongues crack and swell  
our ears blister shut

We will lose our way  
our fragile home  
each other and ourselves

But this is our ship  
We do not have to drown  
nor to die of thirst on these ironic waters

We can traverse these seas together  
Together we can reach our ports of call

This is our ship  
We do not need another  
We will not get another

This is our ship