

## A Thing of Beauty

*Jim Metcalf*

I believe in beauty  
for beauty's sake,  
and that no matter  
where it hides,  
it is never wasted.

If, in some dark  
and secret place it lies,  
where eyes of man  
will never see it,  
it is no less lovely.

It needs neither praise  
nor adoration  
to justify its being.

It exists.  
It need do no more  
to serve its purpose.

I believe in beauty  
as a noble end  
within itself.  
And I believe  
that God does.

Were it made  
for man alone  
it would not adorn  
the silent floors of oceans  
where he will never walk.

Or be buried for eternity  
beneath the sands  
of barren deserts.

If a man should wander  
from his charted way  
and chance upon  
a thing of beauty, hidden,  
then it is he  
who will be rewarded;  
he who will be changed.

The thing of beauty  
will remain the same.  
As it was before he came,  
so will it be  
when he is gone.



*Beauty Hidden*  
Wilmington, North Carolina  
Photo by Dan Hardison