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.