The Blue Drop

By Dean Ballinger

They prescribe blue drops for anxiety,
the colour of lapis lazuli.
The breath of God,
hardened into stone,
grind into powder, add water
and take four times daily
to defeat
time.

Take cochineal for accidie.
Scrape beetles off cactus,
pound into a paste
and apply a compress
to your chest.
Fake blood
for a flaccid
heart.

Tyrian purple for weltschmerz.
Crush sea snails for dye,
stand atop ten thousand shells
and paint your face.
Feel imperious,
in the face of the
unyielding
waves.