

## HUMPBACK WHALE SIGHTING

by Linda Henke

Craggy head surges  
up through the plane  
of dark ocean,  
a primordial mountain range  
erupting out of the boil  
of krill and eel  
into the misty universe  
of sky and gull,  
mouth yaws  
toward the pale sun  
arcing to swallow it  
into that sleek black body  
heaving skyward,  
then in a graceful curving  
it pierces the plane  
again, sliding silently  
down into darkness  
drawing after it  
a spray of delicate silver,  
stitching the ocean  
in elegant ebony strokes.