This Burnt River

Tracy Zeman
**This Burnt River**

It's not like the building is on fire  
just his small corner  
that river with the bed of slick smooth stones  
beneath us color breaker  
There's a photo of a woman standing next to a doorway  
with vines intertwined around the arches  
She's outside and only a number of steps away

We are with the woman in some hallway  
cut off at the end what she was saying  
It's a question of time

It's a suggestion of time  
It's a river fed with flowers the woman drops  
in as she passes over the bridge  
never really being there with her  
but observing: *less man woman faith* full  
in between the walls we are in the hallway  
narrow at the beginning  
far at the expanse and colorless  
two hands touching at the base with fingers askew.