

Spring 1975

## Appearance Of A Force

Chris McMonigle

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>

 Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

McMonigle, Chris (1975) "Appearance Of A Force," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 4 , Article 24.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss4/24>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mail.lib.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mail.lib.umt.edu).

## APPEARANCE OF A FORCE

Anything could rupture the skin  
of afternoon: a plane inscribes  
a scratch on blue porcelain; white  
hands flutter up from your plate.  
Who would not be frightened if  
it broke now: if one odd pain  
like a gaping fish broke surface  
at the pupil of your eye?

Flags of steam open and fade.  
Dressed in purple, you fade  
in the corner. Glass catches  
the blood-light: a globe of wine.  
What can I say? You are  
too far off—your face a pale  
smear on the wall, a small  
white pile of hands in your lap.

A hammer hurtles toward  
the membrane of the window.  
I fold my hands and wait; it is  
impossible to stop the meal.