

## David Hockney Explains Silence by the Swimming Pool

Virgil Suárez

Follow this and additional works at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate>

---

### Recommended Citation

Suárez, Virgil () "David Hockney Explains Silence by the Swimming Pool," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 9.

Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol1/iss1/9>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact [ORB@binghamton.edu](mailto:ORB@binghamton.edu).

**David Hockney Explains Silence by the Swimming Pool**  
by Virgil Suárez

With a Polaroid camera you can shoot pictures as you walk by the garden, by the pool cabana where there is a bloomed orchid, the cusp of light strangled in its meaty petals. Snap after snap, in disorderly sequence, how water peels off the pool's surface, chlorine vapors rising up with the afternoon breeze. Fractured mirrors underwater, convex, complex, perplexed, like so much quiet, all around, truth in the gaps: one moment you are standing there by the hibiscus the next you have taken its bud in your mouth; next the plant explodes its color inside you, smeared in x-ray like radiance. A red-throated sparrow perches on your fingers, whispers the secret of wind, how if you dream of fluttering underwater, you will forever abandon all hope, all longing for color, hues of opal, mother of pearl, lapis lazuli, patina, a heavenly mixing going on beyond you, out of sight, in the silence of so much waking, so much thinking, something gives away, something is taken, then a flash of genius, how one straight line infects another, crisscrosses the expanse of blue horizon, right there, where a man catches his own reflection on a broken window of a pool house, a dead sparrow like a bloodshot scream. His mouth fills with the sounds of so much living.