You’re Some Conversationalist

Betsy Ruppert*
2nd Place
Chris Adams

Land's Horizon
Silver, Gold, Red Jasper

City
Silver, Gold, Stone Unknown
(opposite)

You're Some
Conversationalist
Betsy Ruppert

Butterflies of brilliance dance
inside your thin skull
and fly out of a mouth
striving to keep some control
of its pretty painted flutterers.

I eat the insects, choke on the bitter
powder of their dusty, battering wings,
swallow, feelers tracing fine lines
in my throat.
Your winged tongue has stolen my heart—