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June 2014

## Of Mirrors

Philip M. Taylor

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### Recommended Citation

Taylor, Philip M. (2014) "Of Mirrors," *The Laureate*: Vol. 8 , Article 1.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate/vol8/iss1/1>

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## OF MIRRORS

Philip M. Taylor

5

Le Galerie des Glaces:

a mirror is gilded obsidian and onyx and mercury and glass  
fashioned by Pyrenees artisans

three hundred and fifty-seven years old for  
three hundred and fifty-seven faces to peer into  
three hundred and fifty-seven times.

A mirror is glacial before a quiver and never sleeps.

Three hundred and fifty-seven winks of an eye  
hold courtesans, hold peacocks,  
hold Pepper's ghost, hold cerulean and cicada,  
hold Echo still reiterating her nympean name.

Brunelleschi, Kahlo, Manet, Velazquez wished mirror  
light upon the line of their glassy jaws.

But, a mirror in house spins Lilith's web,  
raven-haired coquette catches the eye of abjecting Adam, Jung, Lacan.

Bronzed anamorphosis between a woman's syrupy flexing legs,

The Venus Effect:

goddess gazing at herself gazing at you gazing at her gazing at you.

Wave mirrors before Kali:

stiletto riding. Jackal drunk  
on the blood of warriors,  
dancing destructive frenzy.

A mirror is a trimmed silvering doppelganger,  
numb and number,  
spinning flesh alabaster stone with the image of  
three hundred and fifty-seven snakes shirking.

Falling guillotine guides Marie Antoinette  
's head rolling back in her eyes.

Soft focus befalls in three hundred and fifty-seven years of  
wrinkling quiet, because  
a mirror is mere gilded glass and mercury and onyx and obsidian.

