



Cabinet of Curiosities

by Kimberly Blaeser

i.

Sundial, moon shells, stones, and bones;
tattered nests, star charts, stained glass window art.

Welcome to my wonder room—wild curio collection
of found objects—foreign stamps, feathers, fidget spinners.
Miniature museum of my meandering mind—
where memories, marvels, and mystery meet.

Their stories free—no ticket, no entrance fee!

ii.

Among elk antler, grandfather's pocket watch, volcanic ash,
boomerang, fossils, tattered family photos, and beaded sash—

here in this hands-on hall of unknowing
scent lingering perfumes of braided sweetgrass,

lift silk-smooth cedar flute—finger and blow birdsong,
shake the turtle rattle, *tap tap* the deerskin drum.

Awake to the world—of sense and sensation.

iii.

Now build your *wunderkammer*—wonder room.
Hall of memories. Treasure chest of rare. A riddle zone.

What will you souvenir there—for love or study?
What precious jewel of universe hold close?

Diamond-patterned snakeskin? Puff of rabbit fur,
antique fishing lure, wood carving, coral, coin, or lace?

Let hungry mind feast—your genius eyes unleash.

iv.

From ancestors' habits of looking—invention. *Eureka!*
We mimic gecko feet, cheetah camouflage, honeybee hive.

From visions of bats, kites, and birds came flying machines.
Our magic cabinet of brain alive—we change every moment!

Supernovas seeded the stars, which seeded us—
we come from stardust, why shouldn't we twinkle?

Our questions a light in darkness, our curiosity a wealth!