

## **Shattered**

*after CRW Nevinson Bursting Shell 1915  
(Vorticist Exhibition, Tate Britain, 2011)*

This morning we woke – but not everyone –  
to exploding rainbows. Our teachers of science  
had not prepared us for this when they'd used  
their prisms to create rainbows and restore them  
to plain light; none of their calculations and proofs  
of angles of refraction told the ear-bursting boom  
as they shattered, nor the terrible beauty  
as the shards rained down like showers  
of fatal blessings from a cathedral window.

Now we scramble amongst the debris,  
the broken stones, collapsed walls, body parts,  
search for the prism that will mend  
the rainbow, place it back in the sky,  
restore the ancient covenant.

**Kaye Lee**