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AMERICAN HISTORY IN CONTEXT

Antler
Trumpeter
500,000 years ago sleepy chipmunks
   snuggled in their burrows.
400,000 years ago doe
   nibbled ladyslipper.
300,000 years ago
   dust on tiger swallowtail wing.
200,000 years ago
   whirligig beetle whirligigged.
100,000 years ago
   blue heron still as a statue
50,000 years ago
   male seahorse belly-pouch
   swollen with herd of
   perfectly shaped baby seahorses.
25,000 years ago
   leopard frog on lilypad
10,000 years ago
   male wasp stroking female wasp antennae
   lightly with his mouthparts
   as they copulate on the wing
   from flower to flower.
Right now hippo shitting and pissing
   while whirling its tail like a propellor
   scattering the mess in all directions.
10,000 years from now
   opossum scurries across
   overgrown road.
25,000 years from now
   lobsters grappling lobsters
   with giant chelae.
50,000 years from now
   alligator snapper huge mouth agape
   wriggling pink worm-like tongue
   to attract unwary fish.
100,000 years from now
   female praying mantis clasps her mate
   eating his eyes and head
   causing headless corpse to writhe and kick
   till nothing’s left
   but his penis still ejaculating
   in her ovipositor.
200,000 years from now
   yellow pollen-hung anthers
   of a red columbine.
300,000 years from now
   a white pine in spring
...smells just as good.
400,000 years from now
a black bear sighs
    in her hibernation den.
500,000 years from now sleepy chipmunks
    snuggle in their burrows.