

## In Our Hands

metamorphic moments span archaic millennia  
in the Proterozoic Era 2,500 million years ago  
the land cracks, explodes  
ejaculates and oozes  
molten history into  
basalt and quartz and granite mountains  
to be washed and weathered  
and rumbled  
slowly in groaning glacial valleys  
and rivers and plains  
and inland seas with silt compress life to be seen in a later time  
and dust and sand  
which blows and flows to the coastline  
bordering the oceans  
  
in our hands  
  
which rise and fall over eons  
hungrily devouring  
then exposing the land which is shaped,  
fenced  
and blocked  
dug and scraped and drilled  
denuded  
to suit our needs  
  
in our hands  
  
metamorphosis  
  
in our hands  
what has been for thousands of years  
  
special places now only traces  
on postcards  
in museums  
  
in our hands  
  
geological time  
crumbles into dust  
slipping through the fingers  
of our hands.

Julie Stephenson