

THE BATH

My father used to say,
"A man is free
when his thoughts are free."
Then he shot himself in the bath.

Nobody understood. They said,
"He was such a nice guy."

Obviously, which is why
he did it in the bath.

Grandma had to wipe
his brains off the walls,

only missed two drops of blood:
one in the carpet
one in the hall.

When I think of it now,
it's a nice idea
to imagine how bird-like
his brains looked

flying

still sparkling with blood
and gun powder

and dreams
he could never remember.

ADULT, 2ND PLACE, NIKKI SALTZ