

The Last Holocaust Survivor

• *Deborah Schnitzer* •

The Last Holocaust Survivor
opens his mouth
his heart flies out
people wonder at his wake

the trace of a pulse dripping at the bottom of the roasting pan

the smell of him persists

why doesn't the survivor die so that we can get on with the vigil
if your heart flies out of your mouth
you're supposed to be dead

but he swallows me
gives me the empty space where his heart ticked
makes me tell time with my mouth open

I say things
The Last Holocaust Survivor makes sure I know