

Denise M. Rogers

The Lovers

--after Utamaro

Four thin fingers clasping
the moon of her shoulder.

Her loosened obi.

Her neck a calyx or snowy egret's.

Her kimono anikki falling open.

Mushroom growing in an opacate cellar.

His rumpled hakama.

His oiled queue.

His pale feet without tabi.

Arms embracing hips the way snow
girds the carnelian stone.

The katana and the halberd.

The monument and the sheaf.

The shrine and the scripture.

The tatami. The moon.

His snail. Her shell.