The New Dolphins

A smaller, lighter breed
and almost as intelligent,
they live close to shore
walking on long legs
with webbed feet,
a curious amphibious animal
whose skin is made of rubber
smooth and black
except for a silver dorsal fin
with anthropoid fingers,
while an oval glassy eye
extends from ear to ear
somewhere below the head,
and a long nose
protrudes from the mouth
sideways and upwards.

Awkward on land, they move
with agility and grace in water
propelled
by five radial appendages,
their blowholes
bubbling the surface
as they dive lower and lower
guided by signals.
New dolphins in old oceans
they feed on all sorts
of strange fare: fish, shells,
shipwrecked treasures...
all are stored in a pouch
outside the stomach
to be absorbed and digested
later in dry light.

Born to a late history
they may be able to survive
the fate of extinction
since they do not breathe
the noxious air or drink
the polluted water.
A new specie, they seem best fit
for natural selection.

Elizabeth Bartlett