

Opening the Yellowhead Route

Roadway through rockcut
 deceptive
 curling over slow long looping curves
 of yesterday's crustaceans
 hiding the agony — orogeny
 10 billion individual yesterdays
 crust compacted crushed
 pressured to a global growth ring.
 Simple enough dichotomies
 solid-liquid flesh-stone
 wilderness-
 But follow the trilobite
 scuttling beetle-bodied over muddy-bottom
 caught — in a shale-grey layer caressed —
 solidified —
 melted —
 shoved molten up the weaknesses
 of a granite
 a cool jagged rhythm of changes.

— *Marsha Mitchell*