

## LAWRENCE BUTTROSE

### FORO ROMANO

in the ruins of old rome  
the tabby cat licks its fur  
whilst its mate looks on  
bored

they have fed  
this morning's fill  
on rats  
& americans

only the cats  
intrigue now  
in the daily thrust  
of politics & bread

the spring sun warms  
the tabby settles  
in the cracked throne  
of ozymandias

whilst its mate  
stretches bloated & sleeping  
across the splintered marble,

prizing the fullness of grandeur  
of an empire with no hint  
of decay or despair