

## The Young Fire Eaters Of Mexico City

They fill their mouths with alcohol  
and blow it out over a lit candle  
at traffic signs. Anyplace, really,  
where cars line up and the drivers  
are angry and frustrated and looking  
for distraction — there you'll find  
the young fire eaters. Doing what they do  
for a few pesos. If they're lucky.  
But within a year their lips  
are parched and their throats raw.  
They have no voice within a year.  
They can't talk or cry out —  
these poor children who hunt  
through the streets, silently,  
with a candle and a beer can filled with alcohol.  
They are called "Milusos." Which translates  
into "a thousand uses."