

## Things to Do Around Niagara When You're Black

after Gary Snyder

First, only visit when the grapevines are kissed  
brimful with summer. Dress appropriately so no one  
mistakes you for a seasonal farm worker.  
Cycle tipsy through vineyards and out to the runny  
tree-backed canyon. See how the sidling sheer cliffs  
tumble down to the water's roiling hem,  
and embank the river in a granite-shield palm.  
Skip the moonshine escape rooms down the main strip.  
Your skin is already an adventure you can't break out of.  
Take a nubivagant helicopter ride over the misting falls,  
yell under the whizzed buzzing of the propeller blades.  
Metres above the death wash cascade,  
you are in the lacuna of being and not being.  
Try to beat the house at Fallsview Casino.  
Your date will notice security glaring at you,  
tell her you're used to it before you both sink into slots.  
Pretend to wrest her purse away in the elevator.  
It's the biggest inside joke between you,  
and you're stoked she's always all-in for the laugh.  
Freefall and feel your ragged body balter through  
plummet-fueled, wind-rushing air at Skydive Burnaby.  
Remember, gravity is your only dance partner until  
the shoot unfastens. As you drift down, see how  
the mustard yellow sun blazes a weld line on the  
lake's trembling surface, the whole world  
a type of silence painted beneath your feet.