

**On Richard Long's 'Sculpture Left by the Tide' (Cornwall, 1970)**

As formative as sand and wind  
and sweep of water weight  
to delicate imprint code  
of outer inward death awaken  
to encircle origins inside  
the matter-seeded all  
of all clinging in-organics'  
cellular activities sheltering  
outside spiral outside  
what we see we grab  
as bursting out of desire  
to follow a trail no further  
than our widest departure  
early on the big trek not  
to risk again as shutdown  
or entry into another spatial  
decorativeness these after-  
lives we latch onto life  
back there somewhere as  
seen in Long's spirals  
since buying a book of photos  
as a student and then gallery  
on gallery around the traps  
bringing outdoors indoors  
stepping back out into  
real things and reclaiming  
spirals for all our selves.

John Kinsella