

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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TOPOGRAPHY

STATE OF OHIO
REPRESENTED BY THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

OHIO - PENNSYLVANIA

PORTRAIT OF MR. PEANUT AS THE BODY POLITIC

BY: DOM FONCE

There's a bridge
in Youngstown
as magma-bright

as Mars dirt

and spindly-arched
as spider legs

caught and caged

a giant crab daggering
pincers into the Mahoning
over the horizon

stuck by rain-water oxidation
in the soot and muck

If you pass underneath

going downtown
you'll see him there
on the first I-beam

Him
there

Mr. Peanut

posing
cane in hand

Nobody knows why
yet we feel why

like wrapping
glittery tinsel
on a spruce
in the winter

a relic
a secret image binding us
into one spirit

of the city
the gluey weld

of each rusted-out
rod

the bridge grows
cracks with the soul
of the people

each heart
and pump of life
now a clicking spinal disc

trudging her frame
over cars and homes

cloud-breathing centipede

the city
as creature
on a conquering path

