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Blind Swimmers

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Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

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Susan Brennan

BLIND SWIMMERS

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As you explore, dream a little.
Dazzle yourself.
Compose your own individual medley of strokes:
free back breast butterfly.

Your breath streaks in nests of bubbles.

Mind the splash lanes,
secure your opaque goggles.
I imagine a stripe of bananas along the lip,
where they shimmer best.

You may compete with the sighted;
vision balms their eyes, gets messy, aquatic.
Don't forget, they are porous when
body waters urge forward.

Go ahead, you say, close your eyes.
Scoop yourself out, your liquid self
breath to breath.

For a moment, all ions repel
and you are a mystic
at birth with yourself.