

LUCAS SMITH

Pleistocene Rewilding

The lions cross the border near Calexico
and jump the highway and the brush.
Just the news of them is border control.

Elephants refresh themselves in the Colorado
River because Mammoth cloning failed
to secure funding. Boy scouts paddle out to bring them in.

Grizzlies terrorise Trabuco Canyon. A price
of natural integrity, which also means
moose and reindeer flee Tijuana.

The Saguaro start across the bridge in Yuma
as if they actually signed that endemic agreement
with the state quarter of Arizona.

Salties are next on the department's list,
to fill the niche of coastal carnivore. Then
coelacanths to ring the base of Catalina,

what's after that? The cycads, bathtub seas,
and single-celled amnesias.

Lucas Smith is a poet and writer living in Melbourne. His work has appeared in *Australian Poetry Journal*, *The Rialto*, *Cordite*, *Santa Clara Review* and many other venues.