

## **The Elixir of Life**

Anna Gretton

Oil is magical  
Long-lost animals and trees from epochs ago  
Become a piece of soft velvet  
Being stroked one way and the other  
Calming and entrancing the senses  
Or becomes a rainbow shimmer  
Colour sweating out onto cold tarmac  
Distilled life, contained in a drop

A metamorphosis –  
From dirty treacle to rock-hard plastic  
Mould it how you like and it will power our lives  
But what it truly is cannot change  
Fragments of the dead  
Whose spirits writhe in the toxic fumes  
Angered to be pulled from the bottom of the sea  
They are taking us down with them  
We suffocate and asphyxiate  
As we frantically bop to the latest pop  
Through tinny plastic speakers