

SELFISH BEAUTY

IRIS PARADA

soft, gentle, beautiful
is how I know you
small and big is your size.
you are everywhere,
outside, in my home,
and on my skin

you surround yourself with
your own kind
if there isn't your kind around
you grow uncomfortable
and spread your seed

your colors are artificially mimicked.
they remind me of highlighters
the ones in my bag I don't use
or the rubbery eraser
I use when I make a mistake
or the flesh of a wild salmon
I cannot afford.

you are selfishly tall and confident,
leaving others under your shade
not caring if they cannot grow as big as you

you are temporary beauty,
you put a mask to flaunt how healthy you are,
showing off the amount of nutrients you have received
it doesn't last long until you look like everyone else

dry, dark, lifeless
but there is more of you,
you will be back