

# Paua shell

**David Worrall**

[A cup for your necklace,  
eyes draping the trapezius,  
strokes your throat  
with jewels of blue light.]

The rough coral-encrusted exterior  
is cut and ground  
to reveal  
a well of frozen oils,  
solidified wavelets,  
a breast-cup for a Polenesian maiden.

What strange lifeform,  
huddled in this spiral,  
grew such salty resonance?