

Catching my Breath

pteridophobia
fear of ferns
of their fronds once
twice thrice divided
branching unfurling
vernation of old spores
on young fiddleheads
springing circumvinate
from the dark

chionophobia
fear of snow
of ice-covered pollen
stellar dendrites
with fernlike branches
hexagonal plates
on twisted columns
rimed crystal

basophobia
fear of falling
of stepping on nothing
steep open mouths
sloped into whirlpools
a sense of never
being touched

tryphobia
fear of holes
of clusters in colanders
compound eyes
sown under leaves
netted space

leukophobia
fear of white
of scattered light
booming colour
washed

pteronophobia
fear of feathers
of sweet flags hooked
and barbed

belonephobia
fear of needles
of piercing points

kenophobia
fear of voids