MIRROR, IMAGE

Anthony Etherin
The Camera Obscura/
The Infinity Mirror

We fall, as I demand I glass end-locks.
Awe? I've revivers, mirror its repair.
A fast, naïve dynamic of one box—
a totem (user set in, if nil air)—
traps items, rid a 'now', to date by art.
Seer, gain 'I, duo'—yet a cold light, apt.
Felt pad as wall, lens speeds astir, we dart.
Snip pins, trade writs, as deeps' Snell laws adapt.

Stray, bet ado: two nadirs met, I spar.
Trial infinites resume to tax. O, be
no foci, many deviants afar!
I, aper, stir, or rims revive, review.
Ask coldness (algid, named), is all a few?
The Reflecting Telescope/Reflections in Water

Robust rays, imitating streams afar, trust I reflect, affix locality, swell radiating novae, sparkle stars, so waves, in aided phases, mirror seas.... Well radiated and identified, below, move rivers—tainted, do again pen Newton’s aim: telecopy applied. Applied telecopy, aim Newton’s pen....

Again, do tainted rivers move below, identified and radiated well. Seas mirror phases, aided in waves, so stars sparkle—novae, radiating, swell. Locality, affix! Reflect, I trust, afar streams, imitating rays robust....
The Shattered Mirror

Softly, all space suffers: Our stiff mirror shatters, so we sonorously scatter its wave of colourless shards into a palindromic mosaic — constraints then solve three more...

Stray, viewer candle,
halo of spots:
tilt far,
cross or cast fire.
So, hem muse Sol,
sun in rot.
Torn in us,
lose, sum me.
Hose rifts across,
or craft, lit stops.
Fool a held nacre—
we, ivy arts.

‘Infinity mirrors’
fear for echoes.
Colossal repeats
hold a
countless start.
(Vows must,
must vows start.)
Countless,
a hold repeats
colossal echoes—
for fear
mirrors infinity.

Optic halls
focus on mirrors
that reflect
astral fusions (‘eyes’).
Astronomers
view odds,
so astronomers
view fusions....
Eyes reflect
‘astral mirrors’
that focus on
optic halls....

Refill, wave:
Lost, post- Loch,
its dam restores us,
or chance.
Some ray
(for stars fit in us),
on onus,
in its far story,
frames ocean choruses;
or streams ditch,
lost, post-love,
wall fire.
Two-Way Mirror

‘Mirror, Image’ presents two Shakespearean sonnets in iambic pentameter, each of which discusses, divided between its octave and sestet, an apparatus and a phenomenon pertaining to reflections of light and the capturing of images. The first sonnet, which addresses the camera obscura and the infinity mirror, is palindromic by letter. The second sonnet, whose subjects are the reflecting telescope and reflections in water, is palindromic by word. These two sonnets are perfect anagrams of each other.

As a complement to these anagrammed palindrome-sonnets, The Shattered Mirror presents an additional experiment in literary constraint. In this piece, the four subjects discussed in the sonnets are reexamined within short palindromes of various styles: the camera obscura (top left) as a one-letter-unit palindrome; the infinity mirror (bottom left) as a one-word-unit palindrome; the reflecting telescope (top right) as a two-word-unit palindrome; and reflections in water (bottom right) as a two-letter-unit palindrome. These four palindromes are all perfect anagrams of each other. Moreover, each of these palindromes is a perfect anagram of The Shattered Mirror’s introductory paragraph.
Anthony Etherin is a UK-based writer of experimental poetry and music. His poems have appeared online in The Account, Five:2:One, and Nagari magazines, among others, and he has had leaflets or chapbooks published by No Press, Penteract Press, Spacecraft Press, and The Blasted Tree. Find him on twitter, @Anthony_Etherin, and via his website, anthonyetherin.wordpress.com.