

**Rose Quartz &
Serenity**

The amount of science we can
do these days is enormous:
resolving galaxies in the blink of an
Extremely Large Telescope,
replacing string and rust with
a shimmering mess of mirrors,
shifting legs constantly to adapt
to the earth's turbulent atmosphere

with a textured tread and
front zipper closure
the surface disappears
under high exposure

these nightmare
reflective platform boots
won't let ya get any sleep
with their shine and glare
shade and stare
shape-shifting
oil-slicked
deathtrap love that's
the Color of the Year—every year
even this year: Simply White OC-117
or last year: Serpentine SS-SSS ...

with a textured tread and
front zipper closure
the surface disappears
under high exposure
to resist penetrative bacteria
and disrupt evil cell division
at every step

deflecting criticism in a gradient sunrise
like suspicion pulsing up the back of the neck
a suspicion green as a reptile, blue as a fish
a proof-of-concept synthetic microfish
powered by hydrogen peroxide
wriggling through rough old seaweed
surfacing in the slimy drain puddle of need
reflecting
Rose Quartz 13-1520
& Serenity 15-3919
cracking hard into yellow ice cubes
fizzing soda with a citrus twist
delivering a million tiny, harmless skinpricks

you look down involuntarily
you see a dark thing in the water
you see a swimming shadow
with two broad fins ... dorsal, anal ...

but it's just a snorkeler
just a gross fish
a pink, sunburned fish
in the shade of Radiant Orchid
18-322

