

Landmannalaugar

MELISSA HITE

Johannes says they come here
for the healing,
to baptize their aging bones
in the humming heat.

Naked, all of them,
and unashamed.
There is no man or woman once
you get this close to God,
Johannes says,

but we keep covered
anyway, good Christian kids,
unready or unwilling
to bare all.
We wade into the water

in our one-piece suits.
The scent of sulfur sticks
to our skin for days.

