

Autumn

After torching the forest's enormous
aura, leaves scuff away their skin.
I keep staring at the greenness gone.
This violation that stops the mind.

Grief is a way to participate
in agreements gods must reformulate.
Faith, I suspect, is the greater state
a doorcrack-moment restores.

A failed heaven, all frayed, has left
a woman like a nest of desolate smoke.
Her steps, turned to subterranean thread,
enter to return what's interred instead.

Quantum chaos asks its quantum opposite
to passion-test its next embodiment.
My heart must burn its intended season.
It will blossom ash. Golden ash.

Peach

Letting any speeding eye graze your blouse,
you arouse in us a zealous mouth:

boys on wild cowboy cycles
gangly girls wired in the mouth
sullen men all rind and wine-calloused
women sewing sequins on satin—
our lust a posthumous grace
raping you with rapacious teeth.

Peach, you are devoured to the pit,
a narcotic echo remedial as hope
opening flesh to the holistic secret.

Millennial equations boiling in venom:
child beater, mercenary, thief...

Yet pleasure trickled over the tongue
makes the fist as chaste
as any peach-maker would intend.

Peach, you are justice.

Schubert

The room is cold. He wears a thready
gray shirt and knotty brown sweater.
He ties notes around a staff
as if tacking bait to a fishing line.
Gulls at the docks glide and dip.
He senses fish everywhere.
A hallway dark with pike.
Bathroom cod splashing in the tub.
Salmon saturating the mattress.
It is winter in the water.
The music is slow.
The music beneath what he knows
and the music that is the mind's hook to it.
Silent line and patient casting.
Repetition like vibrational breath.
Finally he taps his pen
on a piscatorial spine: each
scale a paving stone below his window.
Each eye steadfast as a church nail.
Each tooth a ferocious antenna.
Finally there is memory.
There is song, raw without its skin.
The frozen ambition of the past
melts its sound within the sea—
and the hook, the fat hook, smiles
in his mouth like a pitch pipe.