

A shorthand for comparing the unknown to the known / transference

Each heartbeat

a bat trapped under a bed sheet
in the hallway of a college dorm
captor and captured both so young

Each long silence

a small breath held, a mountainous climb
before each exhalation

as if the entire sunrise could pass between us
with each moment, as if sunset might never happen

I am the bird nested next to the fence

On the path down toward the beach

You are the calm yellow light reflected

by west-facing windows in the hour before dusk

You are the green of the pulled back bark of the eucalyptus tree

I am the roly poly bug under a blanket of flox

spreading over the sidewalk

I am the lilac's deep purple

you the scent --no

you are the place where I hid
underneath the lilacs, in the corner
of childhood's backyard

I am the unmapped country

of the unexamined mind

You the cartographer to draft my borders

There is nothing true except in moments

when being at a loss for words is a blessing

If the only space between sky and ocean

is a line of white thickly applied
with a painter's palette knife

Who is to say we can't breathe underwater?

Who is to say that air separates us at all?

Each moment of eye contact

filled with the possibility of metaphor

Each emotion

bubbling up from under the surface

a geology of loss and loneliness

I am just beginning to feel free

from insignificance

You, earth, are my witness

(But how does anyone *feel* in a world so peopled?)

Each smile

the moment between beats of a bird's wing

neither flying nor falling

the moment between a thought and a word