Their Lines Hung Down in Broody Swatches
of brown and green water.
   The last of the night’s rain drips
   from branches. Fog
casts further and further from shore.
The hills have no opinion.
   The dock, planked and grey as newspaper,
enters the lake without intention.
Wind ripples the water like erasures.
- Anonymous (2008)

RE: Yes, You
You are the manifestation of some ancestral prayer
hope that eased them from one burden through the next
now their prayers still cover you –

Live.

And don’t forget.
- Tio Aiken (2015)

Bus Poem
A man loads his home-
two carts stuffed full of stuff –
on the bus.
Two of us move back.
A third helps with the carts.
A man’s got a right to room and help when his whole home
in on the bus.
- Eleanor Arnason (2008)

Dementia
I reach for a name, a song, a tune
and memories scatter,
minnows fleeing
a toothy pike.
I catch a few
laggards.
But know these are nothing
to the hundred fish that fled.
- Naomi Cohn (2008)

Lemniscata
¿te acuerdas cuando te empuje en ese carrito de compras en el parque?
tus dientes deslumbrantes, risas melifluas, ojos iriscentes.
El Tiempo se volvió singular. Simultáneamente empezó, acabó,
nunca paso, y sigue pasoando.
Parte de mi sigue ahí, empujando ese carrito,
desenfrenadamente.
- Sasha Aslanian (2008)

the robins
we notice them in the yard
our first spring:
a couple searching to build
mud and snarls of straw
over the back door
sacred blue eggs inside
next year they come back
and choose the front door
than the garage f
latttered
we never dismantle the safe places of
ten springs.
- Sasha Aslanian (2008)

Untitled
HOPSCOTCH
WUZ
HERE
- David Bard (2019)

Leminscate
¿te acuerdas cuando te empuje en ese carrito de compras en el parque?
vos dientes deslumbrantes, risas melifluas, ojos iriscentes.
El Tiempo se volvió singular. Simultáneamente empezó, acabó,
nunca paso, y sigue pasoando.
Parte de mi sigue ahí, empujando ese carrito,
desenfrenadamente.
- David Bard (2019)
Do you remember when I pushed you through the park in that shopping cart?

Your dazzling teeth, mellifluous laughs, iridescent eyes.

Time became singular. It simultaneously began, finished, never happened, and is still happening. Part of me remains there, pushing that cart, unbridled.

- Roberto Sande Carmona (2019)

**Untitled**

I wanted to tell you the name of the street where I crashed my bicycle, got my best scar or how I went walking at sunrise, a treat to see dawn’s great evacuation of stars.

There must be some method, when two people meet, to explain to each other who we really are.

- Anna Everett Beek (2009)

**Interloper**

On a delicate pappus you rose

Allighted on turf, seeming benign;

Locked into bedrock with pointed toes Stretched lemon head to the sun.

Hyrd, you dodge the mower blade.

I whack you with a spade for fun.

Fine! Senseless to fret.

I’ll transmute gold locks into wine

And eat your children with vinaigrette.

- Tirows Byrd (2008)

**Evening Chores**

When the door claps its frame

the goat runs as if I were

brining the world instead

Of rotting squash. His

strong teeth search me

for more – gently

As if he couldn’t bear to know

that one world is all

I have to feed him –

and one is not enough.

-Sarah Clark (2011)

**Bad Day**

The red lid unscrewed

from the jar of extra crunchy almost empty and the full, mounded spoon half shoved in my mouth

says it all –

I don’t want to talk.

- Caley J. Conney (2008)

**Tadpoles**

A boy, skinny legs pale

as peeled willow, pedals to his favorite pond, pole in hand. Years until he dates, he desires only slime, slop, the fish and frogs of his secret spot.

-Dallas Crow (2010)

**Untitled**

The cat danced across the noon-day sun to a stutter of front porch boogie hot feet playing the floor.

-Donna Damalfi (2012)

**Untitled**

Play me a song Trumpet Man

Sorrow sings deep in my bones

I ache to feel it out loud

Wail, Trumpet Man

Drown this city in brassy tears

Beat in my blood

Pump the anger and hurt out my heart

Wash it away in the slippery sewer

Swirl it down down in your long last note

Leave me standing alone, empty and free

-Mary Davini (2009)

**Untitled**

Life magazines for shin guards.

Skates too big, stick cracked and old, jacket patched and tattered.

I ignored the smirks and winter's cold, love of hockey was all that mattered.

-Louis Disanto (2011)

**Untitled**

It is not carelessness

to leave a poem

lying around

-Susan Downing (2013)

**Untitled**

Don’t dismiss my neighborhood as “Bad.” Rich history exploited in the Name of Progress. Here children laugh, Groups of teenagers swagger, and families Gather on porches. We live here, learn here, Flourish here. Like generations before us, This is our home.

-Lauren Dwyer (2019)

**Untitled**
A tourist
in the cathedral
of your silence
I am reverent
for all the wrong
reasons
- Esme Evans (2008)

Untitled
I still look
for your
footprints.
I tell
everybody
this is where
you’re from.
- Ellen Fee (2019)

Street where
I blessed the frost on this city,
thinking it’s all mine, grit
and light are mine, the people
and their hats are mine,
the coneflower stalks, chipping shutters,
cake crumbling in their mouths
mine. I once thought nothing
could move me to give it back.
- Brianna Flavin (2015)

Let’s Talk
Said one young man to his young bride,
"I’m so sad my dad just died."
"Let’s talk of it," she softly cried.
"Um, I just did," the man replied.
- Sean Fleming (2008)

Untitled
Dear heart,
Let go
It’s too heavy
It was never yours to carry
- Lydia Girma (2008)

Tipping The Scales
I don’t know enough
about balance to tell you
how to do it
I think, though,
it’s in trying
and letting go
that the scales measuring
right and wrong – quiver
and stand still
- Georgia A. Greeley (2008)

Untitled
Don’t buy me dinner on my birthday
and then tell me
you’re too tired
to dance.
- Emily Gurnon (2012)

Untitled
There’s no place I’d rather be
than here in this quite common place
where late morning sun
meets the scent of concrete and cut grass
stirring
- Pam Haas (2009)

Medowlark Mending Song
What hurt you today
was taken out of your heart
by the medowlark
who slipped the silver needle
of her song
in and out of the grey day
and mended what was torn.
- Margaret Hasse (2008)

Advice for Gardeners
Accept brevity.
Celebrate decay.
Emancipate failed growth, hope
it’ll just keep living. Mulch
near odd places. Quit raking.
Sleep.
Tend unlimited variegated words. Xerox your zucchini.
- Kate Lynn Hibbard (2008)

refugee
when my footing feels unsteady unsure
I remember that you stepped across an
ocean
without knowing how to swim
Denise Huynh (2015)

Untitled
Wet cement,
Opportunity.
It only takes a second
To change this spot forever.

Zoe Jameson (2008)

Untitled
My mother
puts garlic salt
on everything
sprinkling it on
she says
garlic makes it better,
she even puts it on me.
streaming down
covering me
salt in my wounds
she tastes me
and says,
still, not quite right,
she pours it on again
I know with each each
new pouring on
I am not perfect,
bitter in her mouth
the garlic burns.
- Claudia Kane-Munson (2019)

Fishing Opener
Pine siskins and gold finches persist
at the feeder.
A loon unravels a tremulous call.
Boys who yesterday bagged groceries
in small towns
have been out in their boats since four,
- Patricia Kirkpatrick (2008)

Untitled
"You are not very
stable," said the frog
to the lily pad.
"And you," the lily pad
replied, "have very cold feet."
-Rachel Kowarski (2010)

Benny & Shrimp
Can a lady in the library
with butter on her tongue

Appreciate the farmer
Spending hours spreading dung?
- James Lachowsky (2012)

November
Autumn winds drag leaves from the trees,
clog the streets in dreary finale.
Bare branches crisscross the heavy sky.
Icy rain spatters, ink-blots the pavement.
I settle at the window, stare into the black flannel,
search the woolly lining of the night for winter.
- Marianne McNamara (2009)

Untitled
I can’t remember
All the flowers she taught me.
Her pansies worry.
- Michael Murphy (2011)

Untitled
Hard candy of love -
what if I bite
down a little?
- Charles Matson Lume (2013)

Untitled
If your dog married my dog
we would be related
and I would bring you meals
when you were ailing and insist
that you come out with me to simply sniff the air.
- Susan Olsson (2013)

Untitled
She was steward
of the smallest things: pair of dead bees
in the windowsill, Santa ring,
crystal of elm seeds in their felted cells.
- Eileen O’toole (2008)

Untitled
A dog on a walk,
is like a person in love -
You can’t tell them
it’s the same old world.
- Pat Owen (2010)

Our Escape
Our barefeet slapped the jungle floor
red, raw
Baby swaddled on her back
Baby at her breast.
Toddlers by her side
Niam muffled our cries
Rummaged for shoots
Fruits
Bamboo raft on the Mekong
Free
-By Polly Pampusch (2015)

**The Sweater**
My mom knitted it out of water,
We washed it in a fire for me,
And whenever I wear it I boil.
-Alma Palahniuk (2012)

**Not like fire**
Nothing flaming
or even
potentially
afame.
Nothing
caught up
with danger.
Nothing racing to take
control
or possessions or
no prisoners.
No, our love
was never
like that.
-Anne Piper (2008)

**Round**
Washing the muffin
trays feels good.
Each compartment
Is a perfect circle.
By Lauren Raheja (2015)

**Cutout Sky**
Cut the trees
out of the sky
with your silver
scissors.
Tear the rain
from the faint
shapes of bruised
clouds with your open
hands.

Weave the thin strands of rain through the branches like pearls
melting against dark silhouettes.
-Anna Renken (2008)

**Untitled**
Tonight
in the dark kitchen
only the stainless steel sink
holds the moon.
-Jeri Reilly (2010)

**Dragonfly**
You are soul-weigher, tiny
devil's horse, doctor
of snakes. You are strength
of late summer, double-barred
cross of courage and speed,
rendered flightless with two pebbles
and a string of child's hair.
-Paige Riehl (2013)

**Untitled**
I suppose it would feel pretty good
To have a poem here,
A crew of people you've never met
Pressing it into cement with a stamp
But, you know,
There is always chalk
-Lydia Rosenberg (2015)

**Steal It**
Go.
Feel the rush.
Speed.
Take off.
The throw.
The catch.
The slide...
-Safe.
-Ryan Ross ()

**Untitled**
He's fat
My fault
No Walks
-Lillian Rupp (2011)
Four feet tall and poised, glove on, front row, third base line, yearning for the foul.
- Michael Rasselle (2011)

But before the early bird eats the earth worm, the worm dreams of swallowing the earth whole.
- Daniel Schauer (2019)

Whippets love wombats and cheaters love rules, like canaries love cats and truants love school. Earthworms drink tea from fine china cups, and ponies give birth to white lab pups. You can see from your ears and smell from your eyes and you’ll always succeed if you never try.
- Kurt Schultz (2009)

Origami Bird
You have great long wings to fly
Why do you sit still?

Fool that I was with my scissors
I have nothing left to offer
The warm spring breeze
- Marcy Steinberg (2013)

An elder Vietnamese woman brushes my cheeks with her fingers; repeating in Vietnamese, “beautiful, beautiful, beautiful.”

But I don’t know what she thinks is beautiful. Is it me or what I represent?

The generation of opportunity. That her generation's journey was worth it and the hopes of the passed and left-behind live on in my generation.

She looks through my eyes like windows and I look into hers like mirrors.
- Amanda Tran (2019)

He kissed the girl in the ballerina skirt. It was a long one-like the kiss-drenching her sneakers in tulle.
- Carlee Tressel (2008)

Remember how you ignored me after I spent a recess stamping your name in the snow? Yet, after 30 years of marriage, I notice how you smile every time it snows-every time.
- Karen Trudeau (2012)

The sky fell on my toes and I was a fast runner.
- Diego Vazquez Jr (2008)

A puddle, where a moth can shake the sky.
- Kevin Walker (2010)

Trust digital dust to last 5 years. Look, see a tree older than—Maybe that oak you see—utahuça—Was climbed by a Dakota child before—Perched, reading the seasons as you read these lines Feeling the same thrum of weather and wood Now cast in concrete communion for another 5 or 50 years?

Uta – acorn
Utahuça – oak tree
- Zachary Wilson (2019)
Untitled

A little less war,
A little more peace,
A little less poor,
A little more eats.

- Eyang Wu (2008)