

POETY | FALL 2018 |

Watching a Synesthete IRL

By Jennifer Wolkin

I watch you swallow
a piece
 of rhubarb & report

 it tastes
 pinkish-red

 & sounds like
 Vivaldi's Four Seasons-

each bite an orchestration
in your mouth

 first string assembles
 on your tongue
 Spring fills your throat

major chords rise
like crescendos
of heard-flavor

 you start humming
 in perfect pitch-

 rhubarb
 is A-major
 bursting
 pinkish-red
 inside
 my viscera
 like seasonal
 vibrato

I live to taste.

Jennifer Wolkin is a health and neuro-psychologist, speaker, mental health advocate and mindfulness-meditation practitioner. She is currently pursuing an MFA in creative writing and literary translation at Queens College. Her poetry has been published/forthcoming in a number of literature journals. Her non-fiction work, translating and sharing the science of brain research and mindfulness, has been published in Thrive Global, The Huffington Post, Mindful.org, and PsychCentral among others; a compilation can be found on her blog BrainCurves.com. Wolkin is most passionate about writing at the intersection where the mind, body, brain and spirit meet, giving voice to those who have sometimes literally lost theirs by bearing witness to their pain (and resilience) through her writing.