
POETRY | SPRING 2018

The Body Lives its Undoing

By Suzanne Edison

like that Hopi word *Koyannisqatsi* life out of balance
or the Inuit one, *uggianaqtuq* to behave strangely
my body is in self-arrest: the victim perpetrator jailor.

I am a heaving glacier clattering tending to cacophony.
I am the kingleet droves giving way to a swelter of crows cawing.
I could be the roughened music of cells awry one gene or more
a minor-major scale a mix-tape of chaos.

Because the mayor of my body handed over
the keys to invaders I am cascading through flames
joints and muscles dragging like a loose muffler on asphalt
fighting off one illness then another.

I am not unlike the polar bears stranded
on shrinking ice chuffing their growls of alarm
while out of melting permafrost a viral storm rises.

I want to know how to be this turbulent sea a solo boat
listing and a sailor my hand on the tiller.

Suzanne Edison is a Seattle poet and the author of a chapbook, *The Moth Eaten World*. Her poetry can be found in *Bullets into Bells* (online); *What Rough Beast*; *Bombay Gin*; *The Naugatuck River Review*; and is forthcoming in *JAMA*. Her work has also appeared in *The Ekphrastic Review*; *The Seattle Review of Books*; *Spillway*; *The Examined Life Journal*, and in the following anthologies: *Face to Face: Women Writers on Faith, Mysticism and Awakening*, ed. Joy Harjo & Brenda Peterson, Farrar, Strauss & Giroux; *The Healing Art of Writing, Volume One*.

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