

“Ballad of the Blind: Atlantic Heart”

I’ve always had a heart of water—
it is pulled by the moon into tides
it surges like a wave on the Ring of Fire.

They say my eyes are ocean blue
I don’t know what that looks like
but sometimes I feel it in my toes
when I have to tell my mom and dad
that I have become an adult
while they were sleeping.

I have to tell them
that I am not the milky white haze of my eyes
not the little girl they grew from the ground,
but a lucid cerulean that extinguishes
the flaming tongues of those who talk;
a Joan of Arc with knowing hands:
Their breaths of preoccupation are only
wind in my sails.

I’ve never desired anyone
who can say the door is at 12 o’clock or 4 o’clock
I’ve never been able to read
the faces of analog clocks anyway.

I only ask that my companion, my Huckleberry friend,
have skin like the texture of my navigation maps
a voice that wavers like the arrow of my compass
and elbows like the joints of my sextant.
I ask that they possess courage to a fault
a captain who goes down with his ship.

And even though I’ll never see the shore,
I know the strength of my mast
I know the secret desires of the schools
of fish swimming in my eyes:

 Their writhing bodies may not know
 the depths of the ocean floor
 but their bones are fierce like these sea storms
 in my Atlantic heart.

“Desensitized”

Call me electric, eclectic
count my age with decay
shuttled thoughts in disarray
carbon dating, dissipating
I am the call you hear on the phone
dying in halves, in time
pull me out from theory, from bleach white bones,
from under the influence; I walk at night
through the dirty streets of dissonance
in alleys littered with water, starved of light
I wished for wilted petals swimming in my skull
prayers at every hour for meaning behind incidence
for a dawn that breaks my bones of dark like wings
a heart with the softness of atriums, vesicles of art
but for now, until I awaken, break the reticence—
I am hexagons, helices, spirals, rings
a being decomposed into parts
organs of sound and frenzied waves;
a body that houses a crystalline heart.