In Accelerated Silence

Brooke Matson
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As the poet takes her own sweet hold of space-time, the Higgs field, electron clouds, fusion, and dark matter, she tethers the universe’s greatest mysteries to matters of the heart. A recipient of an Artist Trust Grant and a Centrum residency, Brooke Matson’s poems have recently been published in Potomac Review, Prairie Schooner, and TAYO.

BROADEN THE SUBJECT

In kindergarten the teacher asked What kind of things are red? and arms rocketed toward the ceiling with apples firetrucks roses. I raised my hand and said, Anything can be red, like a sweater or a crayon, and Mrs. Curley’s face fell and said, No, things that are always red. But my favorite apple is yellow, I thought, the same frustration as when my friend tells me to broaden my focus, to think about moving on to another metaphor, and maybe I am a bull anchored to what hurts, charging sentences at what I cannot understand: a cluster of small hands firing into the air like flags, symbols of how the world ought to be. I ought to let it go—maybe. I return to red red red because I cannot let it go or turn my head the way most people focus on the Positive—flower not blood, pomegranate not wound.

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Maybe I am the narrow hot line at the edge of the visible spectrum, inching toward invisible, bordering on irrelevant. Understand: anything can be red, usually when someone or something splits open

MATT SUTHERLAND (March / April 2020)

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