Ekphrastic Reflection

by

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This piece of writing is one of eight ekphrastic reflections written by Notre Dame Creative Writing MFA students. Ekphrasis has been defined as a literary device in which a painting, sculpture, or other work of visual art is described in detail. Today, many contemporary writers use ekphrasis to translate existing visual artworks into new poems and stories. Does this ekphrastic reflection make you see the artwork in a new way?

List of things yet to know they will become a list, beings

that had once been
dreams, these
smatterings
of unmatter, untill them
from the land, watch their names
drip from the trees like rain-
jackets from a coat rack
to a dirt road not-yet-home,
watch the spit dribble its slow
return to the empty creek, the tongue uncurl from the chest
back into the mouth
a damp shadow, watch footsteps un-
running to erase themselves from mud,
watch the fallen branch unsun
-der itself from the tall father, mend
what the eye bludgeons into thing-ness, watch the body
retreat
down the boulevard of untime
all the way to nothing—no, just no-
thing, the moment before nothing,
the blurred hum, the no-
name country of no-thing, no-know,
just this muffled gesture of infinite
light before the eye
drills a tunnel of becoming
into the trunk, this museum
of untilled desire, this tall silo
of undulations

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