

i really

did go

&

i really

came back

i really did go & i really came back
or

i left my love by obadiah wood

joey frances

FOR THE IDEA OF THE EARTH RUMPLING THE AIR
THE SUN FOUNTAINING ITS HOT LIGHT
THE LAKE TARNISHED SLIGHTLY BY VAPOURS
THE GRASS ALL PEARLED-UP WITH WETNESS FROM THE EARTH
THE EYE ROTATING WITH BODIES
BODIES POURING LIFE TO THE DEPTH OF WHAT WE CAN FEEL
AND THEN ITS RETREAT
FOR THE SILENT FACE
SPACE SILENT AROUND IT
I CRIED

— LISA ROBERTSON, 'AFTER TREES' —

stood on a stone
of a moss grown cottage

(a tree inside among a
wonderful nettle thicket
a stupid lamb on the mid ground hill)

(smoked a little doobskin)

& held a hawthorn
flower close my hand

plateau over
three valleys

(at end to)

lately sunned
& birdsung

ocampo's infinite horse
silhouette high
on the skyline

(possibly
eating)

*

what cut the shaded
upward lane

(things that are
& are not moving)

REPEATED THROUGH THE FIELDS, AT REST;

— SILVINA OCAMPO, 'THE INFINITE HORSES' —

clay ground adjacent
to lime

(marked
the invisible line)

& foot falls
accordingly

the dog &
me

(a dog is
in many ways
also a horse)

listening in
a rough gully

(played back
for transcription)

clear & streptococcal
spring
glub & sputter

a detuned scape
beneath my
slowed down
stonedraw
dictations

(what's the matter
show us)

say

(hoof
track)

again

that
i live
here

GATHERS IN HUDDLES HUFFS
CARDS NEAR THE RESTHOUSE KHAN
SUCH AS CATHODE METERS A COW
[...]

OR THE LIKE THINGS OF IMMATERIAL SCOPE

— CLARK COOLIDGE, 'THE MAINTAINS' —

in light of the need
for practical action

(i saw mushrooms
i couldn't name)

all the (biding) revolutionary poets
developed skills in
growing & foraging

leaf flicker
by lamppost
in the light
breeze

to capture all that

(& food, & shelter
)

for everyone

this one
little metonym

(though not
only that
he senses)

For my losses
returning
the city

abundant grazers
hold up
the unwinding forests

(turbines
cresting)

WEEP
INTO
STUTTERING
THIS EARTH
IS A SUBSTANCE -----

— MAGGIE O'SULLIVAN, 'THE PLACARD OF THE CANDLE' —

typeset by

grant peacock

ground game

manchester

2023

share wantonly