

EXTRACTS FROM A NEW DICTIONARY OF ARCHIVES TERMINOLOGY

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accelerated aging test – **noun** – use of surrogate materials
to mimic vulnerabilities and negative interactions

I follow my shadow
down the dreaming road, past open water, glacial erratics, white birch peeling scrolls
of faithful text – up above the sky is a fever, an arc of light fracturing red orange bronze

the road curves into a meadow wet with recent rain
I pass a grazing deer, her nose pushing into lowbush blueberry
she looks up
regards my posture, something about my shoulders, the way they curl forward
as if to cradle my heart, save it from the downward pull of gravity

heat mantles / time escalates / the earth beneath our feet unfastens

“It’s just a dream,” she says

outside the window, daylight tempers the fractious sky
I think about our prospects
the science of surface heat – anomalies / short-term variations / long-term trends
the faint hope of ingenuity – count backward from projected life expectancy
tally my meager allotment of future days

all the while terrestrial migration, meadows deer blueberries trending north
glaciers collapsing, moving slowly toward cessation

– on cold days

I ache in my bones, calcium leaching into flayed cartilage, each hairline fissure
a further compression, my stature diminished

and ice, her blue heart exposed
keens over stillborn firm, over lost compaction, what can she do but melt
and melt and calve her lovelies into the welling sea –

...

2.

slow archives – **noun** – practises that support flexibility
build relationships and collaboration to remediate prior harm

inside a rusted grill free burns through scavenged wood, follows its nature
a hunger, points a blue finger toward aspen pine willow birch

between the trees, heat hangs translative, burdens the high loft of leaves
the sugar and green of cells dividing, a lineage ripening

somewhere in this elegance, a pine beetle sinks its mandibles into tender bark
tastes the heady lager of phloem, follows its nature
a hunger, carves its place

smoke billows up from the smoldering char of our fire
flattens under a lip of cool air descending

– in the all black, our eyes tear up
dilate into a darkness tempered by fragile faith –

...

spirit duplication – **noun** – method of copying
using aniline dye ink dissolved in alcohol
and bound with resin; unstable, soluble in water

in the country
of my mother, plain of shadow and light, a line of time unites us

I try to map our chronology – cheekbones, the bridge of her nose
sage green eyes, the dappled skin of her belly – all I remember
is how she moved, the weather in her wake

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