

CRUEDA – MARCH 14TH, 2017

Finn Menzies is an out trans preschool teacher in Seattle, WA. He believes that teaching early education is a form of activism. He received his MFA from Mills College. Finn's poem, "Poem For Body Series," was a finalist in Gigantic Sequin's annual poetry contest in 2012. His work can be seen in Open House, Revolver, SPORK and various other journals.

Seattle, 2016

here, time is just a welter of hours
a weaving that pours the threads made of guilt
our minds are always a single parent who has lost their child in a crowd

here, we all live in the shallow water of addiction
every second is a choice every second an oblivion

here, silence has been spoiled
because we left out the milk of it
for days in the sun

the long northern hours of noise

I can't even bare music now
because we have stopped listening to the earth

each night
I cup my ear into the skin of the lake
I listen to my own body
I listen to the water inside and outside of me
just to survive

These are our beards, Dad

if my dad had held me and kissed me
would I have grown into a man?
I imagine myself without fear in his arms

If my dad had let me hold him and kiss him
let me run my fingers over the braille of his beard
as he told stories of getting stung by bees or swimming in the lake
would his beard have grown over me?

I've always wanted the poem to be a salve and not a sword
he would have been so beautiful with those arms around us
limbs as light as stars, a spine made of houses
our beards of bougainvillea