

# CutBank

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Volume 1  
Issue 45 *CutBank* 45

Article 23

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Winter 1995

## Pastoral

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### Recommended Citation

Ritter, Kelly (1995) "Pastoral," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 45 , Article 23.

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PASTORAL

You broke it, now cover it up  
in the ragged snow that changes  
the symmetry of the street's lining.  
In the variety of landscapes it creates,  
define *yourself* —

We walk, and the days are unfortunate  
in their longevity. Another early sun  
and night to appear.  
Create the *who*  
in the speech you do not deliver,  
in a day of days on my verandah.

Beauty in artifice. The curve  
of the canopy over your head.  
Indeed, the light.

These streets are part of you now,  
the prints you cannot smooth over,  
in a landscape of error —

fill the sound of this day with motors,  
keep the appointment, imaginary.  
When the traffic is settled in its unity  
and you have arrived alone —

Lend yourself to the thought,

here in the morning that leans,  
in this city that doesn't want you back:  
I own the pieces and I own their order.  
You choose the expression that calms you.