

Fall 2012

Arrhythmia: Ways to see the Dissonant Heart

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Recommended Citation

Sousa, Sarah (2012) "Arrhythmia: Ways to see the Dissonant Heart," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 77 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss77/7>

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ARRHYTHMIA: WAYS TO SEE
THE DISSONANT HEART

I

Fibrous fruit,
heavy hive, soft
clapper beneath the ribs' dome.

II

Quickening.
Contractions without the pain.
My mother's murmur
(uttered)
utterly benign.

III

A fish in the chest
coolish and unpredictable.

hooked and hauled on board.

Slides back just short
of the blunt club, the bed of ice.

IV

second hand riffing
on its chosen moment.

I feel a surge
of love
toward it
for not (for naught)
killing me.

V

Every life has a number
of heartbeats allotted.
My heart has a speed-up-race

to the finish line habit. After
its faith is shaken,

flame nearly guttered...

VI

I wear
suction-cup halos
to encourage an 'event'.

My heart doesn't
disappoint, my heart trips

up after two sedentary hours
facing a window.

Leaves unfurl like a baby's fists
in sleep. Chickadees
stand on splints

that hold the broken bones straight. My heart
falters, once, twice,

then it's out of the gate.

VII

Coltishness and wing span
are qualities undesirable
in a heart: erratic

boarder,

(blood hoarder!)

sharp fins, my mother's
murmur

emboldened,

tight springs, iridescent

scales, songs for different

seasons, honey filled

chambers, a wind-up

wound-down mechanism,

set of bellows,

the bellows applied

to a guttering,

tiny spine

cleaving the whole,

a heart

of its own

like a chewed

off eraser tip.