

Spring 2013

Field Work

Julia Shipley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Shipley, Julia (2013) "Field Work," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 78 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss78/17>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

JULIA SHIPLEY

FIELD WORK

He shows me where to enter the field,
which direction to mow first—

then he gives me forty days of silence,
benign quiet, apart from the tractor,
a pasture where I can recall

all there was, aboard the wide mothership
winter, my first Quaker meeting,
all of us gathered, nothing said, aloud.

Later, in the same hayfield, *Believe*
tracked out in boot-prints: whomever
leapt into the letter, doubled back

to make one part touch another.
--both instrument and ink,
their whole self, written in snow,

not disappearing ink-- disappearing paper.