

Fall 2016

## Comprehensible Terms

Suzanne Roszak

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

Roszak, Suzanne (2016) "Comprehensible Terms," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 85 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss85/6>

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](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

SUZANNE ROSZAK

COMPREHENSIBLE TERMS

*After Mary Biddinger*

I knew it was time to begin again. The stark  
fissure between our bodies. Days spent trenching

through the muck. We shared the same  
topography of heart and liver, but we called

it up in different words. Basic elements of  
life became uncomfortable. Everywhere

I turned, you had irradiated a chair or footstool,  
afraid I would stop there permanently. Even

the mattress was toxic. Friends who came  
wanting to know what language you were

speaking went away disappointed. There was  
no dictionary for this brand of evasion.

I hunted recipes that might convert your  
speech, or mine. A different, rented syntax:

the smooth structures of someone else. Once,  
you'd drink and the horizon would bow.

A coterie of planets behind you. With me you  
were a sad tangle of syllables. We fabricated

the scene of your interpretation, each of us  
alone, with descriptors we could understand.