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## YYZ to AMS

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ERIN RUSSELL

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## YYZ TO AMS

String my column straight up to San Francisco  
The matrix will is a body of zeros broken by ones  
The city's a cat's nest of cap-gun trade  
Smashed against an Elvis impersonator shitting in front of tens of fans  
The FBI aren't in the business of scratching out your myth  
Hands up, high five, dirty curled claws bared  
Your cuticles are showing  
Building your form on every new city like fingernails through wax—  
A Sapphic graft (think you're clever)  
A palimpsest of city grids, aeration vents and metro fines: SI charting stretch  
marks, nerve ablation, breast reduction surgery  
in a very young boy  
Your silk screen of Obama in drag  
Only serious cash we ever had—  
Your kindness is just a line  
You think you love animals  
You think you are animals  
My response is to become every code running across every grid over the tops of  
your pointed earl of wokeness reveille  
Run open mic nights I'll run theory and poems until the city is sweating with  
words and hot and heavy you and nobody will sleep  
Put the academic back in the cage and wriggle your electronic ears till they itch  
I am song itself

You don't wanna do no postdoc that's fine doc  
I'm pan everything (I know you've got a checklist hidden there in your belly)  
but got no time for cats who are myths of themselves,  
Serve mimosas at 4am, I'll take your libation  
No time for human and nonhuman animals alike who deal mimesis  
A form is fine. Your cat is curled up next to my body, you are curled up tight  
Got no time for mythologies of Bast  
I wanted Bast herself  
Say what I do isn't sex—  
Recuperative response, an absent gaze, these referents  
And doc is standing there with her needle  
The rat's spine is in for it this time  
You think you are animals  
Ablating each nerve-ended line  
String my column up in Amsterdam  
The city doesn't care whether you think nothing's happening here  
Berlin doesn't have near as many cats  
Put the thesis back in the theory  
And tell me how free my body can be