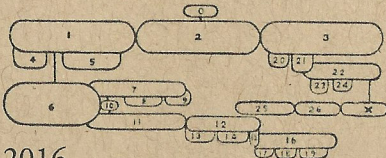


Measures

by Fred Schmalz



2016

A Present Tense Pamphlet

shake the gifts of others
mother strangers
build a web between dusk and first light
murmur under a fortune in futures

speculate on fallout
fall out a window and catch flight
go aloft and gain altitude
catch updraft

leave a stand of trees standing
wait out night on placid grass
push against primary bodies
dismiss horses while longing to be carted away

leave two measures rest in the hope of finding suitable incantation

shake to invisible waves
move air
make sound a movement of air
dampen the repercussions of falling in love

rail thinly
sound back into a silent room
room in a railroad flat
flatten a building with shock waves

hear a brick break against a creek bank
count livable homes between here and the bridge
cross no bridge twice
twinkle against a railing

yawn like an awning
coalesce around a drum
feel your sternum thrum at the song of thrushes
be in a rush not to miss a concert

ignore the thrushes
whistle along with a concussion
feel a rush in the three doshas
douse yourself in instructions

drink white Russian in a tantric emulsion
revolt silently while swinging a club through the sky
miss everyone with a club
make noise fanning past shoulders

rest two measures for possible percussion

wipe waves of lipstick onto a shower curtain
call curtains
extend a line between point and object
turn to the side to be identified

tell them its not you but someone else we're looking for
bolt from the chamber
come within a whisper
hear under a dome the itch across the way

Mashinka Firunts & Danny Snelson, eds.
The Block Museum | Northwestern University
Department of Art History | Mellon Dance Studies
The Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities
<http://sites.northwestern.edu/present>