

## *from Working Definitions*

### *Substitution*

For a decade I watched the wind  
shred the plastic bag on the fire escape  
because there were no trees.

### *Dread*

These shadows passing—  
are they birds of prey  
or whole days I stayed in bed?

### *Adaptation*

I cut the carrot with my teeth—bite and spit,  
bite and spit—because my shoulders  
are too ruined to cut it with a knife.

### *Ache*

I want a poem so close to hurt  
it bruises my lips on the way out.