## Journey Beyond the Medical Gaze EMILIJA SAGAITYTE

Look through, and there beams the sunlight
Diffusing through dusky, yellow-red sky.
Fine vasculature fractures the depressed dome
And hiding in the periphery, swallowing all that's unseen,
There's a black hole — fall into it, fall in love with eye anatomy.

Look into, and there, glows softness,
Flares of tears, darts, safety, and happiness.
Observe such a quiet, motionless language,
Open eyes, the most vulnerable spots. Spotlighted but seen by one,
You still languish to feel security, warmth, serenity, where time stops.

Beats pause, like branches sprout in shrubs
Streaks of muscle hug the heart's atrium.
Get engulfed by the flytrap, hear it clasp shut,
Feel the taught suspension by tethers, passing through the ventricles
Filling with blood carrying messages up through soaring shoots, the vessels.

Beat goes on, listen to the thump,
Gushing warmth surges up — the stress, the blush.
We're united in love, prickling in passions
That get us up on two feet, away from boredom, towards dreams of day.
Those pulsations, measures of being, convey why we run and why we stay.

Send up impulses to the brain
From fragile roots flaring, through stem encased
In vertebrae guarding the spinal cord snake.
Elixir of life glows in the scans, streams flow and fill in the gaps.
Know what's at stake, another's destiny quivers between your tools, your clamps.

Send back down our commands, our motions.

Who we are, our thoughts, feelings, emotions,

Tucked below dips of the cortex. Go under

Covers to weave murky dreams then wade to real life as you awake

And remember — the electrical spark of the next words you will say.