

Ocean Ode

Tara Ryan

I could never pick between you and the old-growth forest
for I have never gotten to know you apart
raised by rock crabs and pine needles
lessons taught on letting go
take a breath with the sea and you will feel the life inside...
us is all the same

the Salish Sea pulls me to her
finding myself laid out across a swaying dock
lower a light to draw in your tenants
reminds me of the rising tides, heat, acid
bodies
and the kelp
between my feet

a spider crab spins a web of stories so great
that they would tear away the greed like a riptide
uncloud their minds
open their hearts to the saltwater
on it, they would float, lifted by the voices of the youth
for
All streets lead to city hall
take up our cry for future

from 238,855 miles away the moon knows the waters better than we do