

autumn air by graciela barada

today we heard
a song so beautiful
it made us cry
lyrics so poignant
we forgot to breathe
may it all break
fold onto itself and crack
grief barrelling into your chest
brown lines etched into your palms
sand stuck beneath fingernails
digging, itching
shame and sorrow
joy and freedom
speak because it matters
write because you can
autumn air breathes life
into you still
as impermanence shakes you
and brings you to your knees
once more

L train by graciela barada

i could write poems in the subway
profess my love for stillness
press myself against
blurriness or noise
scribble love letters
to uncoupled strangers
ache with wonder
as people walk by in two's
hands at their sides
admire intimacy from
six feet away, a safe place
each hand a universe unto itself
the story of each digit untold
we are restless, panicked, impatient
cautious, curious, forgiving
I see you in every beautiful thing
hear your laughter in the pauses
between songs that made you dance