

Trace and Aura

(Phantasms from the Preceding Period)

Poems

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The trace is appearance of a nearness, however far removed the thing that left it behind may be. The aura is appearance of a distance, however close the thing that calls it forth. In the trace, we gain possession of the thing; in the aura; it takes possession of us.

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Reading

One knows one
is learning when one
forgets one's resistance
to one and becomes 2
3 4 of one

ceases to study the perimeter
of things and stops avoiding
pleasure and apprehends and moves
to the overall system
of a fiber

being for a moment
the cloth of flesh
thought motions to the book
as if it were a face

resembling the mother
and does not find
the need to kiss or caress
but walks away unchanged.

Confessions

A box is fashioned
by consonants. A
death comes from crossing
out a photograph with red
string and soaked gauze.

An oaky taste comes
after kissing. A week binds
a school into a shape.

Within a day a farm
may turn into a brook.

Shake out the sheets,
flip the mattress,
break down the set.