

The Quickening

quickenings (n.) – the first movement of a foetus; the ebb of incipient life

So gap-toothed are trees in September.
And so trapped in the needlestitch pulse
of things – a dancing bear, my quivering
lip beneath drawstring stars. You,
as ever, mushroom-quiet
and with your hammy fist against
your chest. Silly ritual. The night distends like
a horse's stomach. It is foal-soft also.
Soon, the little intimacy of ruptured
pigment from a papercut heart –
a small thrust of fringed fat and tissue,
like my quivering lip, or the yew-green paw
of a dancing bear, waltzing
himself to this needlestitch pulse.