

Fragments | Brotes

Queens, New York
Spring
Primavera
2020

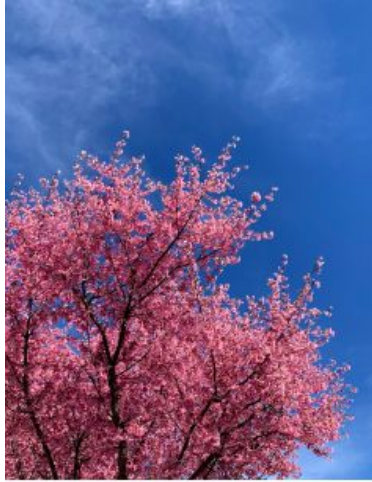
Alexandra Délano Alonso



March 10.
Home | Casa

36 cases.

Silence.



What ~~the fuck~~ were we doing before this?

Cancel.

Essential | Non-essential.

(A is sick)



Mamá, do you believe in god? 329 *cases*.

Homeschool. Schedule. An hour. Another.

Out of focus.

Distancias.

Morning light.

Fronteras cerradas.

Loss | Play



Walk.

15,000 cases.

How far is 6ft? (N and C are sick).



Dispersion. Rerouting. Uncertainty. Confusion.
Community. Connection. Boundless. Unorganized.
Resilient. Insecure. Love. Frustration.
Collecting. Rebooting.
Revelations. Reorientation.

(Words from our first class online)



The cemetery is closed until further notice.
(M is sick, Sh is sick).

M's father died. (E's mother is sick).

The heavy sound of every siren.



LA PALABRA Y EL OÍDO, CON EL CORAZÓN, TIENEN
MUCHOS CAMINOS, MUCHOS MODOS, MUCHOS
CALENDARIOS Y MUCHAS GEOGRAFÍAS PARA
ENCONTRARSE. Y ESTA LUCHA POR LA VIDA PUEDE SER
UNO DE ELLOS. ES TODO.
DESDE LAS MONTAÑAS DEL SURESTE MEXICANO.

Por el Comité Clandestino Revolucionario Indígena-Comandancia
General del Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional.
Subcomandante Insurgente Moisés.

México, 16 de marzo del 2020.



Epicentro.

Stand awkwardly at the crosswalk to avoid
contact. Wait for the light. (S. is sick).



You are the last adult I hugged, 12 days ago. 33,768 *cases*.



Contingency plans.

Wave at strangers.

Dream of discovering a new room.

Narrow drawers. Collections of small objects.

Velvet curtains over unknown windows.



Atisbar (Glimpse)

How long will it take to trust, to touch?

Normalidad.

Another month, two, next Fall, next year.

Tomorrow.



Mamá, ¿cuántos casos hay? ¿Y si le atino?

Un duelo largo y desconocido (*38,087 cases*)

Devastación | Renovación

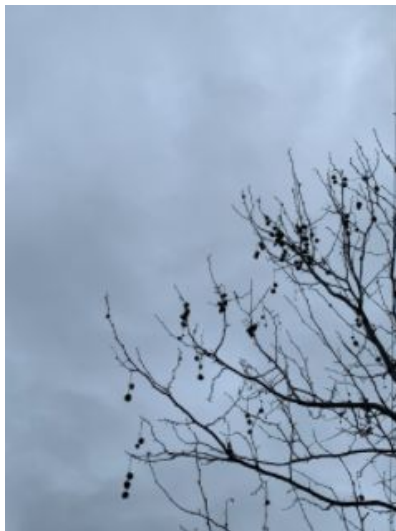
Acogerse

Duelo | Consuelo

Vamos a poder abrazarnos de nuevo.



Mute. Join Audio. Stop Video.



Mamá, this color is like a galaxy.

Futures.



S and her husband are sick.

45,000 yesterday. *52,000* today.

If you eat the pasta with your hands you're going to get
the coronavirus, right mamá?

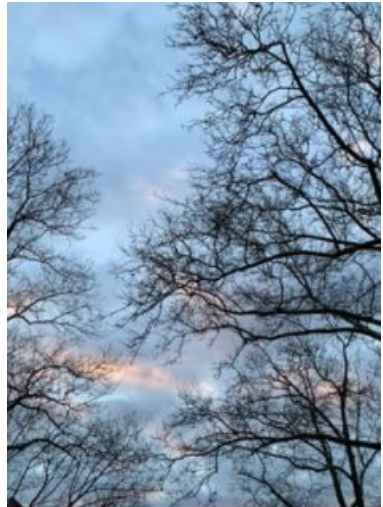


The park is closed. Why did we even come here?

L is sick.

Mamá, ¿cuántos casos hay? Búscalo.

Mamá, ¿qué sigue abierto?



Un tiempo sin tiempo.

C's father died.
They hadn't spoken.
No visitors.



7pm. Clap.
Windows.
Dwellers.



1:43am. Two gunshots. Or firecrackers.

7:50pm. 9-1-1. Ambulance. Police.
M, the neighbor, had a panic attack.



Stretch

Ache

Fragility

Sirens | Birds
(72,181 cases)

R died. Don't tell the kids yet.
She was so generous, mamá. She loved magnets.

B had it. C had it.

It.



M says his cat disappeared:
“T, the neighbor downstairs, did voodoo on it”

Mamá, take your protein pills and put your helmet on.

7 train service suspended.
M threw himself in front of the train.

What are we counting? (*81,803 cases*)



The epicenter of the epicenter.
Corona, Queens

Exhaustion | Agotamiento

Sueño con mi abuelo. Su abrazo. Inhala.
“I hear everything in that breath”, he said.



Blue, black, purple, white gloves, masks on the pavement.
Debris.

I don't think god exists, mamá. When you look out the
airplane window there is nothing there.

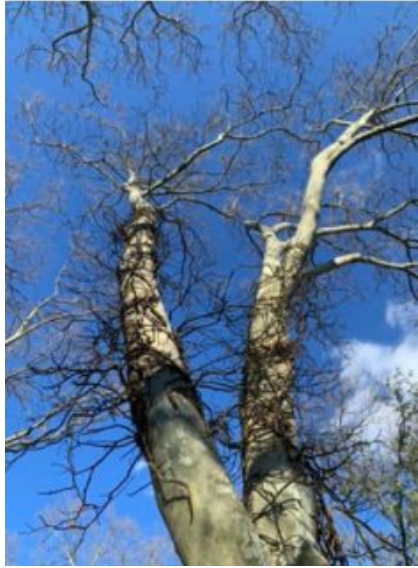


Possible | Impossible

Cancel rent. Freeze debt. Suspend mortgages.

Release detainees. End deportations.

Free healthcare. Relief for migrants. Distribute meals.



How are you?

How are you?

¿Estás?

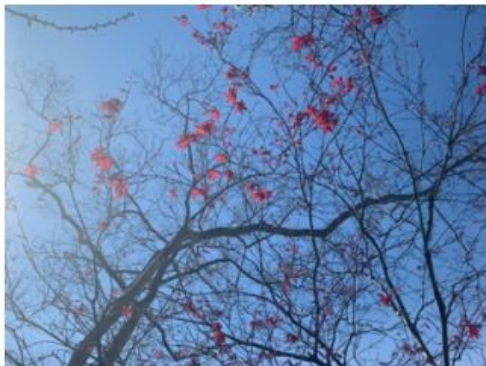
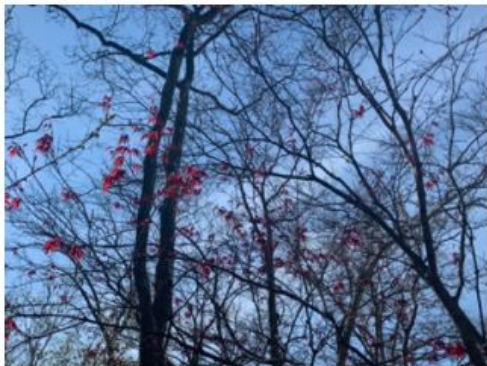
Tears come so easily.

Carajo.



Undocumented and essential.
Clap.

Furloughed.



Mi hermano, el doctor: “Soñé que me moría.
Solo quería que supieras”.

¿Cuántos hay hoy mamá? Tú dime.

Hyperawareness | Sleeplessness



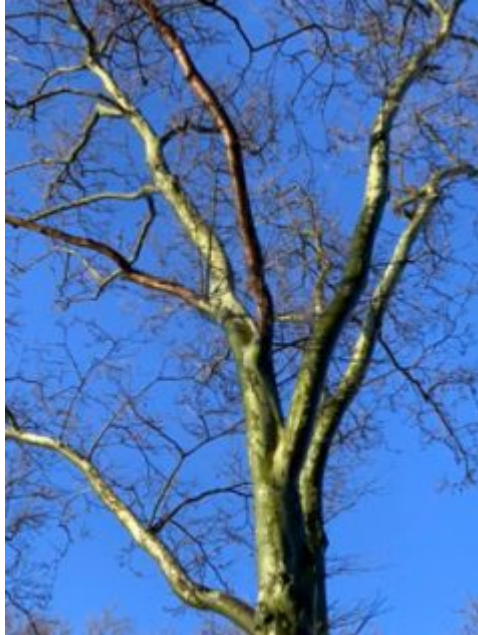
Semillas.

M.K.'s father died. (103, 208)

Alone. Ashes.

D is sick. M is sick. E is sick.

Remains of magnolias blown away. Branches fall. Power out.



Sirens as the constant. Doppler effect.

Escucha.

April 14. *106,764 cases.*

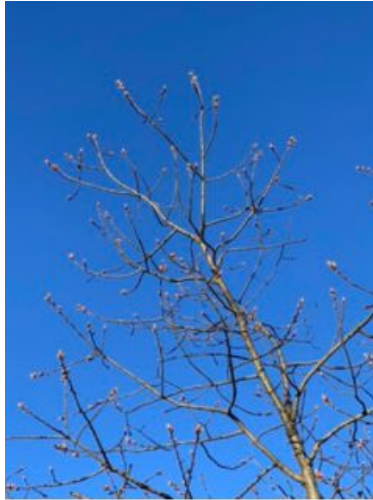


A's son had it. A had it.

Can wild animals get the virus? Can our dog get the virus, mamá?

F is still recovering. How long has it been?

11pm. C called. She couldn't breathe.



Mind gap. Forgot for a moment.

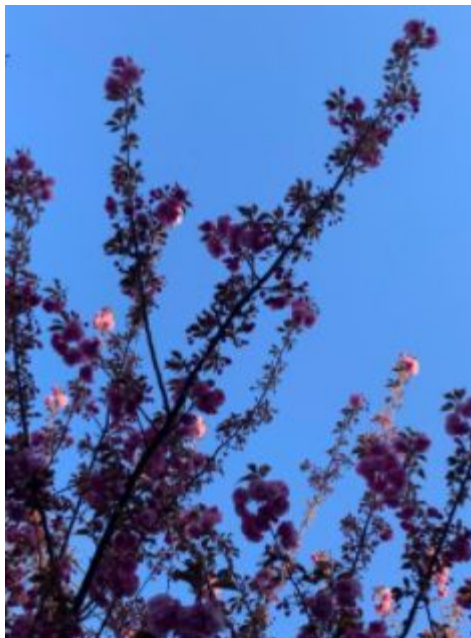
How to go back to – move towards
other rhythms

Reopen
Inside|Outside

Leave home, these four blocks.
No salgas, estamos en lockdown.

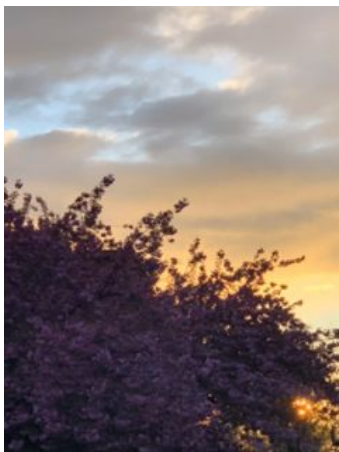
More time.
Reset.

The sirens stopped.



Cuando volvamos.

Mamá, I want to stay with you.



Un tiempo raro.



Windows into an empty school.

Distant subway lights.

Absence.

Ruinas | Ruptures.



DUE TO RECENT
CHAOTIC CIRCUMSTANCES
BARBERSHOP
WILL BE
CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE
CALL



E's mother tested positive. Her brother has symptoms.

Sh relapsed.

A's brother died on the ventilator.

S's uncle is out of intensive care.

I's roommate is sick.

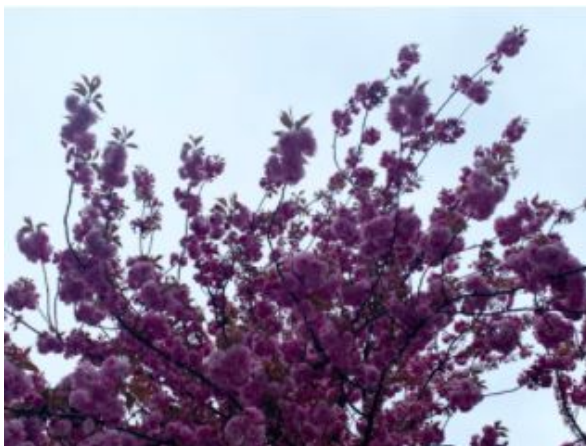
The ambulance wouldn't take her.

Onions and honey to breathe.

Onions on your chest.

I has it too.

How long does it live inside of you?



Take a minute
on the screen
the void
breathe | grieve
chest burning
1:01pm

The sirens again.

Pots, hands, bells, whistle, song. 7:02pm



Me gustaba todo antes del coronavirus, mamá.

Bark at facemasks.

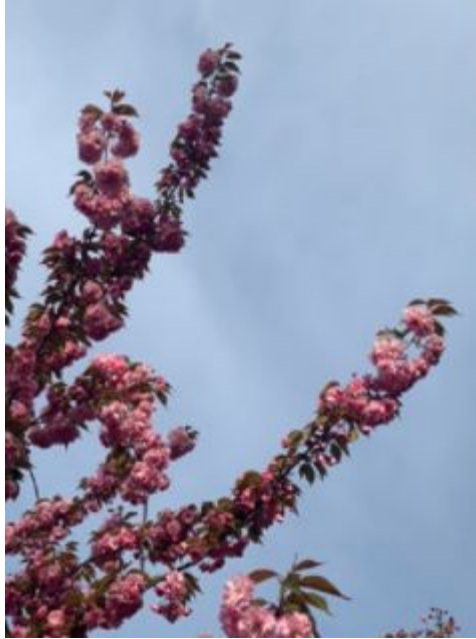
123,146 cases.



Wind
Touch

How it all falls apart

Humanity | Humility



Mañana se activa la fase 3 en el hospital.

How many phases?

L's father is on a ventilator.

Closer

Unending



Break the lease.
Unfolded boxes.



Groceries.
Traces of the distance.

Stock. Restock.
Empty.

First the facemasks. Then the gloves.
Then the visors.
Plastic shield over the cashier.

Security guard.
The queue.
Duct tape markers on the sidewalk.
Now orange plastic cones.

A plastic bag with surgical masks.
Take one to enter.

Turn around.
Blood gushing from her shin.
Just standing there. Shopping bags on the ground.

It was a dog.

Call the ambulance. Don't take the facemask off. Don't touch.

What? What?

Skin dangling. Sweatpants over the knee.
She walks so calmly. Asks what should I do.

Help. Keep the 6 feet. Stay by the orange cone. Keep the mask on.

Slow choreographies.

Layers of tissue. Pulsing.

Wait. Sit on the bench.

But we're not supposed to. Wrap a bandage.

Where's the dog?

There's the police. No, it's school safety. What school?

Ambulance coming. Firetruck.

I can't go to the hospital.

You have to. It's to the bone.

The white bandage over the red stained sock.
The grey long hair tangled with the mask straps, dangling.

Rush back. Took too long.
Elbow open the door.
Shoes, jacket, keys, bags out.
Don't touch.
Disinfect.
Everything.
20 seconds.

The order of things.

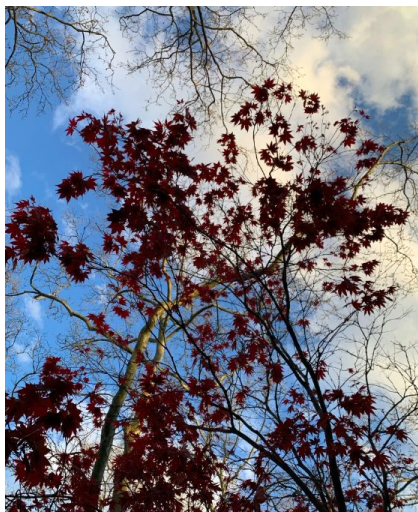
Hands shake.



Hoy se murió un paciente en la calle.
Calzada de Tlalpan.
No había camas en el hospital.

April 20
New York City
134,446 cases | 9,708 deaths

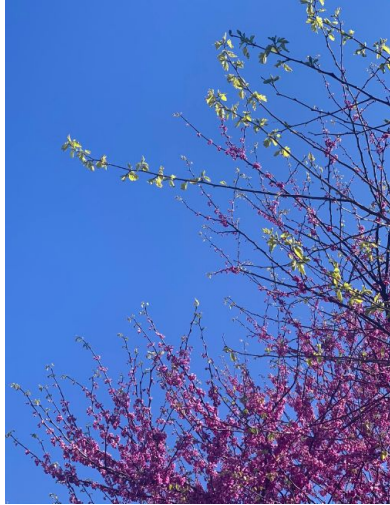
México
8,772 casos | 712 defunciones



Thunder
Fragments

Mamá, nos tenemos que esconder.
Draw the curtains.

Weather Alert



Halt immigration,
but not farmworkers.
Not deportations.

Contain | Spread

Dispensable | Disposable

The line to get free food stretches 22 blocks.



Surfaces

What does it mean to contain multitudes, mamá?

Contradictions

It's been four weeks

Discuss life support options

Take care of your sister

One day without the ventilator

Heart failing

Define toll



Dissonance

Can you hear me with the mask on?
Is she smiling back?

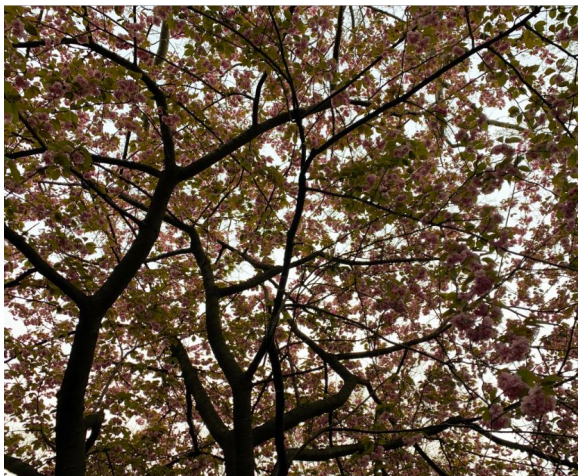
Stifle the cough

Street fight
Yelling under the blue surgical mask:
No estoy loco, no estoy loco

Pull-ups on the scaffolding
Sweat dripping from the thick black face cover.

Takes a drag
Puts the bandana back over her lips.

I forgot my mask today.
Hace frío.



Breaking points.
Within.

The bare pain of a 9-year-old.
Sobs.
Intangible.

No te he llamado.
No puedo.
Other family members have died.
It's been hard.
Hope you're well.

C



How we become
part of
each other

158,268 cases | 11,648 deaths



Mamá, hay que jugar a que soy invisible.

reencuentros



Fog
In betweenness
Sometimes lifts

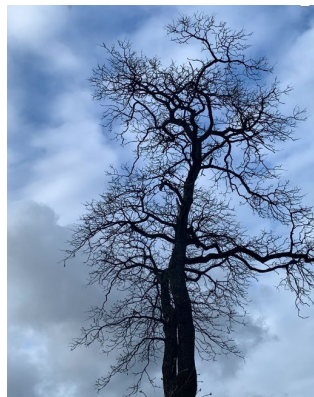
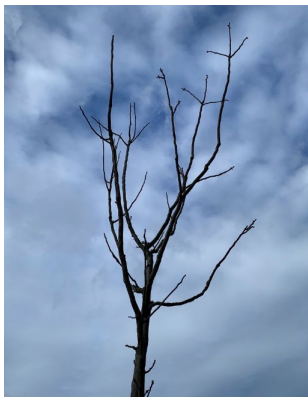
Tránsitos

A curve shifting

slow
down

ready or not

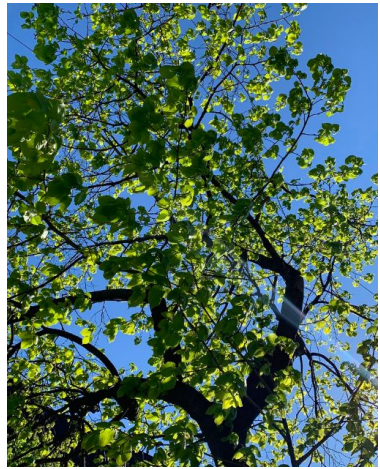
160,499 cases | 11,857 deaths



a sense of
direction

or balance

root



Mamá, mamá, mamá
Emergencia.

Three, four, more.
Where?

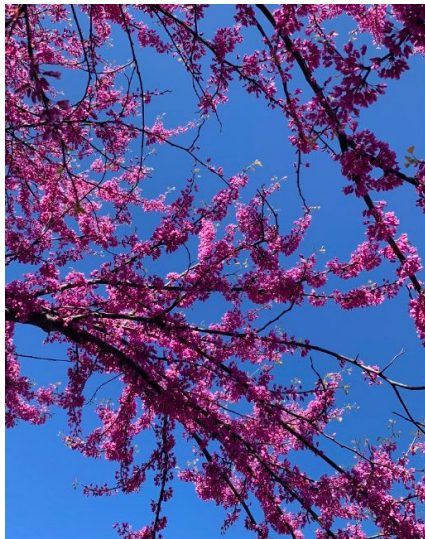
Translucent
contours of life
inert

Carry each dead bird too soon
two thin branches
to the ground
over there
cover them with leaves

Structures | Nests



disassembled
in place



Day laborers on the same corner.

Day one

(like the last)

Backpacks full.

Masks thin.

Wait. Expect.

Again.

Return.

Distant sirens haunting.



What we allow
The limits of discomfort

What we let go.
Who dies.

Linked fates.



I want to tell you about home.
All this unsaid
It's been so long.
Now it bursts.

Remind me how it started
what was there

V collapsed:
I forgot I was sick.

¿Estás llorando, mamá?
¿Por qué?
Si quieres me puedes decir después.



1:13 am

Wake up to screams
exploding

she's running down the street

in what direction

what language
what fight
what can't be contained



¿En qué día estamos, mamá?

domingo
creo
es mayo ya

¿Pero qué número?

179,728 cases | 18,451 deaths



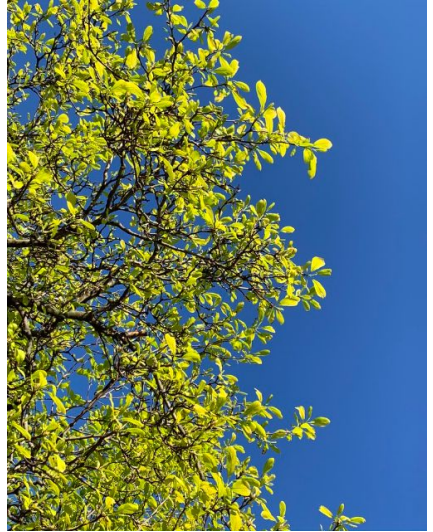
Positive
Anti | body

D's friend died
Out of reach

Mamá, trivia:
What organ works with your heart to give oxygen to your body?

The lungs.

187,157 cases | 19,210 deaths



¿Cuánto falta, mamá?

31522 confirmados acumulados

8048 confirmados activos

20571 sospechosos acumulados

3160 defunciones

71351 negativos

123446 personas estudiadas

8 de mayo

F lo tiene.

Su hija también.



I recognized her by the grey hair
The feet slowly shuffling up 39th Avenue
The package with coupons

You were bit by the dog the other day.

Were you there?
You were.
They let it loose. Unleashed.

It's just me.
The neighbors don't like to talk. And even less now.
I have to wash this coat, it smells of cats.
Maybe that's why.
It's still there. The hole. Too big for stitches.
The hospital bills.

My name is E.



Soñé contigo.
Era tiempo de pandemia
y se nos olvidaba
y salíamos a la calle.
T

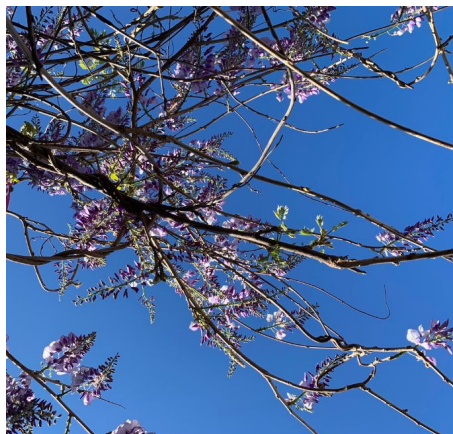
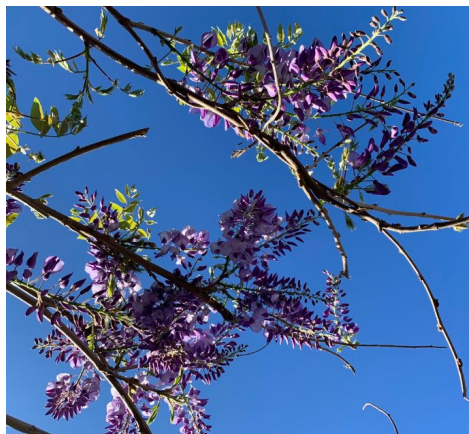


too loud, too fast, too soon
too much, too close, too long
too slow, too quiet, too far

unknown beats
pendulum swings

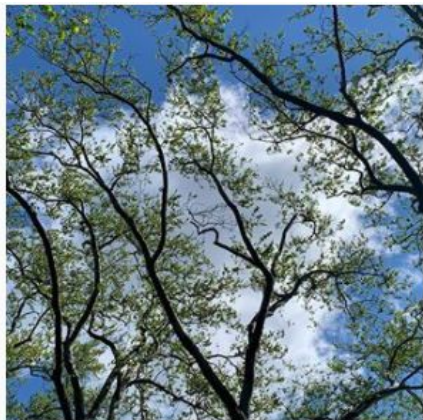
questions unasked
traces elsewhere

huecos | hollows
anhelos



Walk under the bridge
retrace vibrations
the everyday
that can't be crossed

G's uncle died.



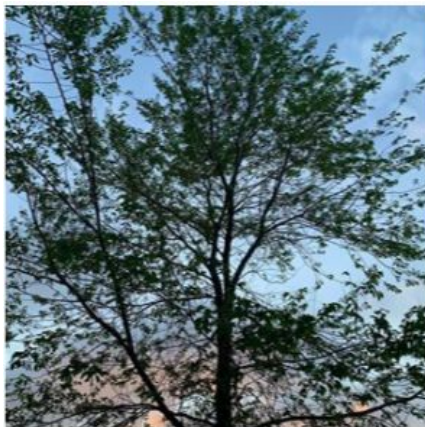
P está enfermo.
¿Me oíste?
Tiene escalofríos.

¿Puede respirar?



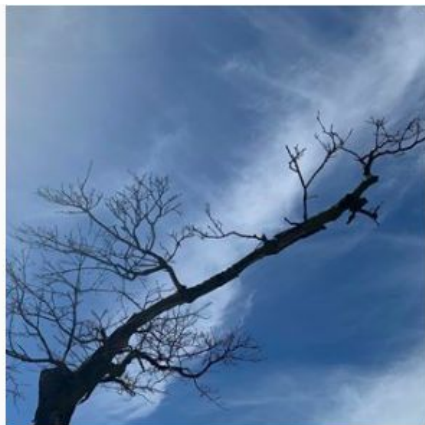
Soñé que yo me contagiaba y mi hija también.
Y luego pues otra vez me moría.

R

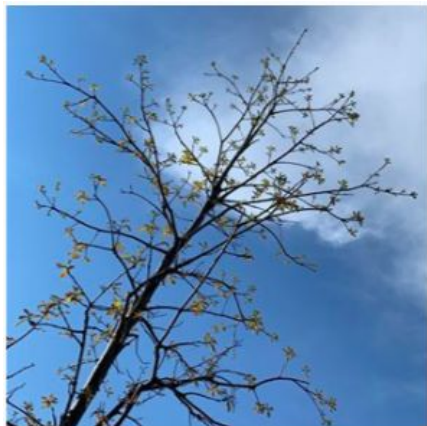


Digo no hay camas
pero no hay nada

tregua



cuartos laberintos puentes escaleras velas cajones ventanas
no sé si me desperté gritando



Can't take a deep breath.

thick
tense
air

plywood over windows
steel railings
unfold
default

199,392 | 20,422
May 20



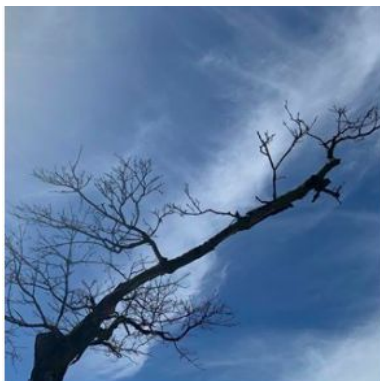
8 minutes 46 seconds

toque de queda

the other sirens

helicopters

hélices | blades

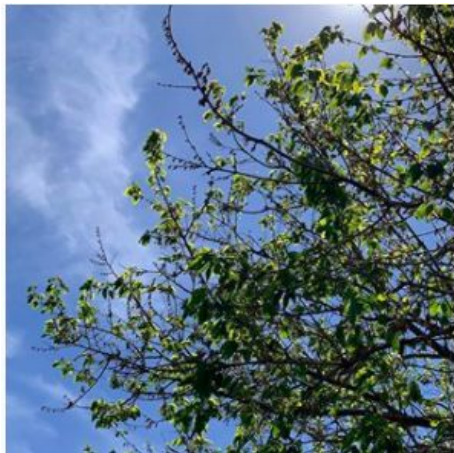


one hundred thousand
lives

incalculable

meter-reader
old-school barber
list-maker
new father

gentle fierce quiet tireless genuine sarcastic avid sweaty indomitable
freed from life in prison
could fix almost anything
corresponded through handwritten notes
always wanted to be near the ocean



mamá, otro pájaro muerto

early feathers
yellow deep beak

break up the soil
hold on
hands joined

hay que cantar
asirse | ritual