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Vista

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Vista

I cycled the earth that day
breathing into branches,
island meadow and rock face
the white fire of prairie grass,
a vista of blue green and flax
corn seed and olive
the horizon widening
deepening into me:
a hundred thousand islands
dropped like seeds into the salt.

The strait of Juan de Fuca
and the Salish Sea
in front of me
sunk into my saddle
my breath
rising and falling
rising and falling
with ancient tides
water brought by comets
asteroids condensed into clouds
the axle of the earth.

That night,
I would sleep for hours
a kingdom of crickets
in the canopy above

five hundred and eighty million years:
never forget.

SARAH SWITZER is a community educator, artist, community-based researcher, and activist living in Toronto. Her creative practice is comprised of three dashes poetry, one dash photography, a half-dash of multi-modal performance, and always some sass. Her poetry, performance, and photographic practice explore the relationship between natural and psychic/affective environments, as well as issues of sexuality, queerness, relationships, and the body. Her professional and academic interests straddle the fields of community arts, HIV, harm reduction, engagement, and arts-based and community-based research. She is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University.