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# Plume

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KATHLEEN FLENNIKEN

*Plume*

For years  
it may be locked  
in the matrix  
of silt and sand  
like a photo-  
graphic image  
still and  
untransported  
absorbed  
and adsorbed  
then  
the introduction  
of gradient  
to unsaturated  
soils  
percolation  
and it awakens  
unfurling  
like a frond  
a carpet unrolling  
itself  
remote  
underground  
this beautiful  
movement  
fanning  
between interstices  
feathering  
void to void  
describes  
the dark earth  
the layering  
of permeable  
and impermeable  
soils

it is out  
of our hands  
this 50 year old  
mistake  
this poison  
yes it is moving  
to the river yes  
it migrates  
between grains  
down to  
saturated sediment  
manifestly down  
and when  
it descends  
as far as it can  
it will swim  
ride droplets  
like swanboats  
float  
spread  
diffuse  
distend  
trailing its  
delicate  
paisley scarf  
and like  
anything  
with a destiny  
a flock of birds  
sperm  
breath  
it will move  
downstream  
to the river  
yes the river  
will take it in