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Natalie Giarratano published in Hayden's Ferry Review.

Congratulations to Natalie Giarratano, poetry Ph.D. candidate, one of her poems has been selected for publication in Hayden's Ferry Review, Fall/Winter 2011-2012, Issue 49.

"Asena, the Gray Wolf, to Tu Kueh after Many Years"

by Natalie Giarratano

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I’ve dented the side of an iron mountain with my head. What can I say: out of frustration. Tried to hide it with tree bark but honey nothing hides itself well enough once a whole empire has walked out of a woman, this woman who doesn’t mind doing all the work and respects that you are all torso and pretty face and the father of legions of limbs, but sometimes I do wish I’d found you before they removed your arms and legs, so I’d have something with which to pin you down. These lupine muscles. This longing for reciprocated touch.

I’m sure the flesh of your belly is some divine window that I have yet to learn to look into at the people after us—children with their hearts licked clean.
I sense this is all dissolving. The smell of your skin on my fur is almost extinct.

Our bodies have stopped communicating. No guts to spill, not even to spew.

Sometimes I think of the coldness of these metal Altais. Mine and yours. So cold with our lack of want for what gravity owns. In this sedentary life you have no choice but to claim, even storms that fly down to us from the mountains into these valleys of wasting away are miraculous. The lightening awakens instincts that have been forgotten in this dale with no memory that tries to erase us with its silence, its slow, deep breaths, its green sighs. But instinct eventually comes back to me, like misunderstanding. Say: Loyal dog. Where else could I be at home?

Posted by bethlynn at 12:46 PM