

## To Feel

The past tense of the verb  
and I am back in childhood's  
art class—"Today, we are going  
to make a present for your parents  
out of macaroni and felt  
out of paper clips and felt  
out of the tears of divorce  
and long November rain and  
the corpse of a grasshopper  
and the back-of-a-baby's-  
mouth-silk smooth-  
pool pocket and the terrifying  
clunk of generation and  
felt. There are no lines  
to cut along or keep  
the colours in. You're  
on your own. At 3:15  
outside this clutch of years  
no longer than your dog's  
life span, Time will arrive  
in the Halloween mask  
your grandparents fashioned  
out of polio, foreclosures  
and papier-mâché  
to take you to the sea  
where you will go like gleaners  
between the velvet water  
and the felt indifferences  
over this spinning clay sphere  
held in no hands, made  
without love, lovelier  
than the intense attraction  
between your eye-songs  
and these desperate invocations of your little wanting heart.

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