

CONNOR FISHER

Tornado Watch

In summer there is
no other weather.

*

There is no such
thing as pale blue.

*

Straw is the only
color.

*

Southern climate is not
elastic. The sun is mixed
up with the rest of time.

*

Clouds change with the
movements of the moon.

*

There is a single climate
to question more and more.

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“Tornado Watch” was created from Gertrude Stein’s *Tender Buttons* (Claire Marie 1914). About the poem and the process of composing it, Connor Fisher writes:

This poem is the result of multiple layers of erasure, cut-and-paste, and rewrites of passages from Gertrude Stein’s *Tender Buttons*. Initially, I went through Stein’s individual prose poems, blacked out long phrases, and lineated the sections to create erasure poems. These were, frankly, mediocre; they were clearly still in Stein’s language and did not stand well on their own. I performed further erasures, recombined lines and fragments from nonconsecutive prose poems, and generally stripped away language to create minimalist word bundles that were not as indebted to Stein. Finally, I looked for similarities and topical resonances between the bundles, and recombined them to form poems, culminating in pieces like “Tornado Watch.”

Connor Fisher is the author of *The Hinge* (Epigraph Chapbook 2018) and *Speculative Geography* (forthcoming from Greying Ghost Press) and a co-author of *Echo: A Collection of Eco-poetic Works* (University of Georgia Ideas for Creative Exploration 2020). His work has appeared in *Dream Pop Journal*, *Tammy*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Oxidant/Engine*, *Posit*, and elsewhere. He lives in Athens, Georgia, and can be found online at connor-fisher.com.

HERON TREE
24 February 2021
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