

Line as Language

Every artist,  
sooner or later,  
finds a method  
by which his work  
is instantly known,  
like a friend's handwriting

just as a child  
needs a word  
to express a thing it wants  
we always tell some story

there are so many truths  
truth has so many sides

it is difficult  
to make up our mind  
which one to pursue

in this pursuit of truth  
we strike a road  
that naturally divides

emotions and thoughts  
variations and changes  
boldness or fineness

two main paths distinct in aim

curvilinear or angular  
spiral to circle  
firmness, raggedness

the finest draughtsmanship is always  
the most subtle and delicate

one cannot draw a line or define a form  
without demanding an answer

## ABOUT THE POEM

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“Line as Language” was created from *Line & Form* by Walter Crane (1900). About the poem and the process of composing it, Jennifer Hernandez writes:

My found poem is sourced from *Line & Form* by Walter Crane. I chose Chapter II – The Language of Line – as what seemed to me a perfect starting point in a text for artists waiting to be transformed into the art of poetry. First, I printed several pages of text from the chosen chapter. Next, I skimmed through the text, circling words and phrases that caught my attention. These words and phrases I typed into a document, which I then divided into initial stanzas. I knew that I had too much text, so I let the words rest for a period of time before returning to them. With fresh eyes, I was able to move the initial stanzas around, choosing the strongest lines and eliminating the rest. Finally, I reworked the line and stanza breaks to arrive at the finished poem.

