



Organic Lines

A lesson of bones
from fish to man

recurring spring of ribs

branches of a tree

jointed bones

radiating body

anatomy of leaflessness

ABOUT THE POEM

“Organic Lines” was made from *Line & Form* by Walter Crane (1900). About the piece and the process of creating it, Diane LeBlanc writes:

Walter Crane’s *Line & Form* relies on both text and image to deliver its lessons. It inspired me to work with visual elements as I read for found poems. “Organic Lines” borrows language and a figure from Chapter VI. The lessons on organic form first reminded me of Denise Levertov’s poetic theory in “Some Notes on Organic Form.” Both Crane and Levertov recognize form in nature, and they pose important questions about art as a mediated experience. I extracted fragments from the chapter that echo Crane’s lesson on line and motion. Crane presents the image of the human and the bird to exemplify radiating and recurring lines. I was struck by the layout of the human appearing to hold the bird. It pushed my thinking toward organic lines that connect human and non-human creatures.

