

Memory is Unlimited

That selective kind of memory extracts
rare butterflies or a flower
by throwing them upon a background
of leaves and stems.

Throw a tree, it forms wings.
Suppose a pomegranate, it radiates vitality.

From the scallop shell spreads gossamer life.
The hidden centres are perhaps the most important.

ABOUT THE POEM

“Memory is Unlimited” was created from *Line & Form* by Walter Crane (1900). About the poem and the process of composing it, Pamela Hobart Carter writes:

This erasure comes from Chapter II of *Line & Form*. At first, I thought I would make a poem all about memory, but the words I encountered sent me in other directions. I kept the title anyway! This is a straight erasure, as in, the words are in the order in which I came across them.

