

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

“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.



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