

THE QUARRY

Willo Drummond

Badu Mangrove Morning

When the sun hits
the surface of the Badu
morning do you know
what must be done?

When the sun hits
the surface of what must be done
fish wake to feed
river and ocean

river fish feed
shore birds training
ironic eyes to
assess the day

shore birds assess
the Badu morning
while grey limbs write
shadows across the silt

shadows lace the surface
of the Badu morning
of everything here
as good as breathing

of everything here
as sure as hope, where
the sun lights the
surface of the living

where the sun hits
the hope of the shivering
rippling sensation
of understanding

when the sun glints
off the living morning
there is a rippling
of intention

when the sun glints off
the morning badu
when thought is no more
and only time will do

when everything
breathing is alive
to sensation, alert
to morning glance

when the sun glances
off the thought
of no more, rising
waters turn to milk

when the rising
milky badu
thoughts breathe
under-surface secrets

secrets surface then
to cool their heels
with detritus
in white water

when thought hits
the surface of the badu
morning the sky
glimmers at your feet

when the surface of
trees go under
when the sky rises up
we hold our breath

we hold our breath
with each root
that we'll make
one more day

under the surface
of this sky, under the
hope we hold for one
more chance of breathing

when the breathing
sun skims roots
as the sky rises up
everything sways

everything sways
and shivers everything
slips just out of grasp

when the shivering
sun breathes badu
do you recognise
your intention?

When you meet your
breath by the sliding sun
when the light hits
the surface of the shadow lace

when the sun hits
the surface of the Badu
morning do you know
what it is you must do?

Notes

The Badu Mangroves are located at Homebush Bay, Sydney. *Badu* is the Dharug word for water: “Dharug Dalang. A Collaborative Tool for Language Teaching”, http://dharug.dalang.com.au/Dharug/plugin_wiki/wordlist [Accessed 17 August 2014].