

Walking to Montjuïc

Claire Rosslyn Wilson

Streetlights blink on, the afternoon sun withdraws
its fingers from my face. Heat that wilted now
lingers in cement—reach out a hand to catch
the cooling stone heart of this city—wings

its fingers from my face. Heat that wilted now
leaks out while a parrot forages before night
the cooling stone heart of this city—wings
to a heavy nest, the tree branch grips, its ache

leaks out while a parrot forages before night,
puts weight on the fissures steadily pulling and hops on
to a heavy nest, the tree branch grips its ache.
A loosed leaf makes its escape to the sky

puts weight on the fissures steadily pulling, and hops on
air currents that carry the freed above rooflines.
A loosed leaf makes its escape to the sky,
is sucked back, under the wheels of a car, and dreams of

air currents that carry the freed above rooflines.
A seed floating in this pressure cooker reaches for dirt,
is sucked back, under the wheels of a car, and dreams
of death. Every night the rot is evicted, the stench

Colloquy: Text, Theory, Critique 39 (2020): 96–97. <https://doi.org/10.26180/13324892>

© 2020 Claire Rosslyn Wilson. Distributed by Monash University under a
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.



subsides like a tide retreating to the deep, yet it
lingers in cement—reach out a hand to catch
the asphyxiating breath of this city—as I walk home
streetlights blink on, the afternoon sun withdraws.

CLAIRE ROSSLYN WILSON is a poet, editor, and researcher, with particular interests in cultural diversity and creative expression for social change. She co-wrote *Freelancing in the Creative Industries* (Oxford University Press, 2015), and was the poetry editor for the human rights journal *Right Now*. She is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra, Australia, and is a co-editor of the academic journal *Coolabah*, of the Transnational and Australian Studies Centre in the University of Barcelona. www.clairerosslynwilson.com