

*Jesse Curran*

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## Sustainability Studies

I've been trying to figure

where that feeling went

call it happiness or *joie di vivre*

name it the chartreuse promise

of unbridled self-invention

instead, the heart's rhythmic pulsing

its anxious insistence

and also the way it sometimes settles

and so, this acceptance

a bit more cayenne on the tongue

the skin's blotched redness from his grazing stubble

shoes worn down by miles and days

just one leather bag for a lifetime

not the lion's freedom

but rather the armored horseshoe crab

returning to the same jagged shore

for millions of years

not inventing

just breathing

such questions

is the world warming?

and what might that mean?

it is unusually mild this January

and last winter was the warmest

on record