

James Thomas Stevens

FROM THREE TRANSLATIONS FROM THE MOHAWK

CANOE SONG

Teiohonwa:ka ne'ni akhonwe:ia. Kon'tatieshon iohnekotatie. Wakkawehatie,
wakkawehatie.

The canoe is very fast. It is mine. All day I hit the water. I paddle along, I
paddle along.

I am the hull – rapid against your stream.
Birch beneath the ribs
circumnavigating your body.

Endless propeller of my arm
as it circles to find the flow.

I move this way against you.
I move this way.