

Getting To Know, or Stepping Out in an Entirely Different Way · *Akua Lezli Hope*

for Swan

Still, it's *how* we negotiate
not *that*. style yet. rule
and measure deep the interface. just
Don't say the concrete alchemies night
like grassbreeze and palmetto sea
or sand-sting and dune-dance.

Where is your body wired? to
telegraph the moment.
coiled-lock conductors
spark fresh air, sear
space with pigment's trace and linen stretched
pinned flags on backyard line
tiered gravity defiers, signal clean

Massacre meaning's first blush
spread soil with this fleshy compost
and alter sacrificial curtsies to don
the bloodfruit's leather skin. Live.

July 1980