**AFTER TWO QUOTES FROM JOHN ASHBERY**

‘Look, this is what I am, what I’m made of’  
– John Ashbery, 'Girls on the Run’

This is what I am and, looking back,  
what I have always been. I remember  
asking my school friend if he noticed  
anything new in my room; the smallest  
thing on my chest of drawers. He didn’t.

Tonight, beats and seductive vocals  
merge with flute and oboe on the radio,  
a blur of stations and genres. Intense,  
accidental, it’s a marvellous mash-up,  
airways crossing paths before entering

the building. Something close to music,  
near to how I feel, adrift in the world  
where noise and words crowd in. It is  
absolute chaos, a welcome distraction,  
it is recycled language, disrupted song,

chance inspired tunes that I seek out  
late night to keep me awake, send me  
to sleep. World is infinitesimally layered,  
overlaid and piled up high. 'We never live  
long enough to know what today is like.’ \*

\*'We never live…’ is from John Ashbery’s 'The Improvement’

**OTHER SENTENCES**

for David Miller

              Understanding

is the key to also

              thinking,

a way to make amends.

              If you

decide to beg to differ

              we will

agree to disagree.

What does language mean

              to you?

I’d love to hear about

              what you think,

want you to cross

              collapsing borders

claim a world without

              boundaries.

              I have

other plans for sentences,

              want to

resist emotional extremities.

              The voice

can only articulate so much,

              the mind

only think what it can speak.

**ENDLESS PROSPECTS**

              every thing

  &          no thing

          drifting music

                                    drifting

              every            where

     &       no            where

*every time I say goodbye*

*I cry a little*

                          just a little

               not a lot

nothing happens       as it happens

              every one   is where

                    they are

                         or might be

     sound rolls out of

              every night

                         or might

           or could

that voice again

   that voice

              every            where

      &      no            where

   nothing happens

                              as it happens

                 because

                                  it happens

              every time

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