CAROL ANN DAVIS
The Oblique Approach

Away he moves from us away though his body stays an outline of sound thus has it been
written thus fox in ruins fox in open must it be sung the boy with the scent the fox has
given him also a messenger from the divine his ear shell-like and sheltered a hunted thing
listening for red of earth and sound to blend that’s the oblique part that a boy’s call is also
by closing his eyes and hand over ear in case he misses it a fox in mountains his coat blending
this world towards something distant though his body stays so each of us hunts and is
hunted how he seeks something ancient in his ear and in hills which he imagines
approaching since people tire of the human voice try its call to prayer the body an ugliness
the body a burning-building quality try the oblique try the oblique and approach it like scent
don’t say it outright since slaughter listens and answers in song the boy moving away into
the deep the better to feel tongue in back of mouth