

CINTIA SANTANA

Ode to Your Salmon Soul

to your mother and your father / and their mothers
and their fathers / to the pale pink of their love / and
their cold / unseasoned waters / because it made / you
you / you / Ode to your mouth gasping / to its echo
of my gasping / to your bludgeoning / which is my
bludgeoning / and the tears lost to this water / Ode
to the bear's maw / wound-wide and lovely-dark /
To the quiver and muscle / the barb / the tidal marsh
and the cruelty of shallows / To the fight / the current
the heave and the climb / to the higher / higher / heights
and the estuary's sky / the riot of stars / silent winks
that bind / Ode to the slope / the steepness / the leap
and the lope / To the feast and the / stones / to Chinook
and Chum / To the / sweet / eelgrass / to the first gravel
nest / and the next / To your / rings / narrow / wide
to your hump / your growing / teeth and your / kype /
Ode to your / cherry skin / your darker / silver / blues
to your / milt your / red roe / spilling / ripe / Ode to you
to / you to / you / to the / river rumoring / home