

Danielle Susi

Back Door to the Seventh House

I'm aiming to predict my distant future
 in recent moons. Asking the solar return to measure me
 with its old techniques, divide
 my meridian angles. Something about my natal planets,
 one of them in retrograde, though what is retrograde
 but inverse? And what is inverse
 but winter? I'm drawing a chart of my seventh house and
 I've given it a back door just in case.

The names of ancestors are clipped
 to a length of wire, hands never touching
 caustic curve, lip to wrist extended.
 I've wanted a threaded muscle like yours
 for some time now. You are centaur
 drawing a bow. Star on the shoulder.
 Who is Sigma
 but the second-brightest?

Danielle Susi is the author of the chapbook *The Month in Which We Are Born* (dancing girl press, 2015). She is a columnist for *Entropy*, the co-editor of *HOUND*, and the Programming and Media Coordinator for the Poetry Center of Chicago. Her writing has appeared in *Knee-Jerk Magazine*, *Hobart*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. She received her MFA in writing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Newcity has named her among the Top 5 Emerging Chicago Poets. Find her online at daniellesusi.com.