

from *Gave*

Cole Swensen

You walk alongside the river. No; you walk always with. Not down, or along, or beside. And you can't help but measure—is it moving faster? And does that mean each molecule of water? Or does a body of water form internal bodies, pockets that move in counterpoint, in back-beat, in eddies? And does the surface ever move? Or is it something underneath that does? Of course, yes, the molecules of water that form the surface must certainly go forward, but does that mean that the surface itself moves too? Then what is a standing wave? What stays? I watch a large branch being carried down by the river, and then a kayaker, moving faster, then turn to walk back upstream like I'm walking into the arms of some thing.

water water

we please another.

all repetition is either prayer or spell

as all water repeats itself

is answered

carry me over

so over me carried

(all water is over)

bearing a border

we carry it anchor

as it carries us

in a small blue boat

rowed by a large blue dog who cannot look back.