

Interview with a river series

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river i, ii, iii

the river
might
empty,
expend its
sedimentary
breath
become a
spine
stripped
open
to an
opening
lower yourself into the grasping mud
translate the heat that passes through your
fingers to a reddening sky

the river will drag overflow and sediment
break the lines of its management
submerge the v-channel

open your
mouth
fill
with
the other
crevices
be swept
with
roe scraped
from
the river
bed
stript
leaves
and
sediment

tie them up with the strings of a piano
dragged across the lake (1875)
box them up with the last crated whitefish (1910)
tamp them down in a root wad (2017) they have no purchase

fill your
pockets
with
pebbles
and
fingerlings
remove
your
shoes
fold away
your
words

Interview with the riparian

to dispose the
border of self
cross the boundary
of our membranes
moisten yourself
with my cells
weave your self
vascular out
grow green tissue
until I am gated
I am water. I am not water.
I am soil. I am not soil.
I am grass. I am not grass.