

Sean Virgo / TWO POEMS WINTER LOON SONG

The house is
A dry mouth
Like the fish who breathes

Drum

Some nights
I see the sea
An empty stone pit

Drum

The fish breathe
They lie on
The ledges with hump backs

They lie at
Many levels
White and breathing

Drum

A bird could
Go down to them
I only stare at the pit

Waking in this
Fish house
With its slow gulping mouth

Drum

Sean Virgo

The fish
That swallowed me
Fell foul of the shoals

Drum

Gull glut
Pink light eventually
Through the rib drum

Drum

I went up
Flying towards my people
Crying before the lips of their houses

Drum

IN SICKNESS SONG

Out, hunter.
Brothers took flight to the mountain
Your shadow fell on the snow behind them
They looked behind
Their spirits failed.
Out, hunter, out.

Out, hunter.
Brothers threw gifts in their footprints
You ate their gifts you swallowed the sun
They looked to the hills
Their spirits failed.
Out, hunter, out.

Out, hunter.
Brothers threw clothes and weapons
You tore their clothes you laughed in the darkness
They fell in the snow
Their spirits failed.
Out, hunter, out.

Out, hunter.
Brothers took hulkistagay (shaman's bone necklace)
The face-shaped bones from the grandfather's chest
They called on Nan (Bear)
Their spirits turned
They called on Kwikwe (Eagle)
Their spirit danced
Under claw and wing
They faced you then.
Out, hunter, out.

Sean Virgo

Out, hunter.
Brothers came back in the morning
Their spirit had chased you under the ice
They came back strong
With blood on their hands
They came back whole
With blood on their thighs
They came back singing
With blood on their lips.
Out, hunter, out.