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John Phillips



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## Acknowledgements

The poems “SPEECH”, “LEFT”, “When you’re not there” and “What’s unseen” are from a collaboration with James Stallard in which we respond to each other’s poems. The poem “listened to birds...” is for Katja Seutu.

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*for Jasna, Eva, Lana  
& John Levy*

## SPEECH

My tongue  
sewn into  
the fabric  
of silence

listened to birds are listening

Thinking wonders  
what it is

to be unthought  
and still there



Flies  
break

silence

into  
time

Nothing to  
do doesn't  
stop it  
happening

Like no where  
to go doesn't  
mean we aren't  
there

AFTER BUSON'S PAINTING

Three crows on  
a pine bough

squawking after  
another  
crow

not there

THUS

At least to  
talk to

who isn't  
exactly

here I am  
so spoken

LEFT

half-filled jar of goat's milk  
at the door

When you're not there  
what happens  
to you is

repeated later,

somewhat changed

SLUR

swathes  
of  
fog

sun  
snarled

What's unseen  
is still  
to be  
recognised as



hills  
beyond  
clouds  
beyond hills  
& clouds

(beyond)

Nothing is here  
before I say  
it is

## RESOUNDING

The trees are birds  
singing green

mirrors of  
water

THIS

Ask  
yourself

what you want  
from this.

Then give it.

