

by Traci Warkentin

scream

so Human

They say
eerie

tugging at flesh

threatening to expose the palimpsest the
Body has become
written over with exclusivity
Hierarchy
separateness

yet only Superimposed
over what cannot be effaced
entirely

within
the body remembers
heeding the call of other bodies
responding fervently

heart galloping
breath sucking in
sharp
prickling skin
shuddering spine
wince

piercing the denial

so Human

They say?

They have it backwards
the body knows
bodies do not lie to one another
it is a corporeal contract

of visceral language
fragmented tongues of coherence
bleeding continuous flesh

flesh and sinew
guttural and flailing

cries
ripped from throats
with the acrid fullness of Terror
pungent agony
assaulting nostrils

flaring
stabbing ear drums
stinging flesh

piercing the denial

piercing the denial
of the latent animal
that is me
embodied.