by Traci Warkentin scream so Human so Human They say? They say eerie They have it backwards the body knows tugging at flesh bodies do not lie to one another it is a corporeal contract threatening to expose the palimpsest the Body has become of visceral language written over with exclusivity fragmented tongues of coherence Hierarchy bleeding continuous flesh separateness flesh and sinew yet only Superimposed guttural and flailing over what cannot be effaced entirely cries ripped from throats within with the acrid fullness of Terror the body remembers pungent agony heeding the call of other bodies assaulting nostrils responding fervently flaring stabbing ear drums heart galloping stinging flesh breath sucking in sharp

piercing the denial

piercing the denial

of the latent animal that is me

embodied.

prickling skin shuddering spine

wince

piercing the denial