

The London Consortium
Static. Issue 05 – Metamorphosis

<http://static.londonconsortium.com/issue05/>

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I Remain

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Aiming to initiate interdisciplinary intellectual debate about paradoxes of contemporary culture, Static presents contributions from an international team of academics, artists and cultural practitioners.

The materials, assembled for each issue around a theme, include analytical essays and articles, interviews, art projects, photographic images, etc. Static will welcome feedback, argument and commentary from scholars, artists, and other readers, and will be regularly updated in order to communicate the most recent and relevant ideas and interpretations on the chosen topic.

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I Remain

How winter flays me:
my country and comfort are stripped
like dead leaves from old trees.
They curl into brittleness,
fragmenting on a bitter London breeze.

On the Tube I read Ovid,
swaying with home-, love-, motion- sickness
longing for the sea rushing at the shore,
wind stroking flat
the grass on the dunes,
a hand on the back of my neck.

With two legs, a breaking heart,
I walk through black-suited, grim-faced crowds
in days so short of breath
they wheeze out sunlight.
How I wish I could fold
my soreness into scales
and shimmer away
into an enveloping sea.

Instead I must mould my bitterness
into rippling kelp or gleaming sea creatures,
and must find cool air beneath oak trees,
silk dresses on summer days,
the buses that drive past Hyde Park.

For I remain so staunchly human.