

Uses of Eating

1. a hole I have
to heal I hurt
hello oh ow
a whole pie?
oops.
2. because we always
greens on the left
with thanks
we repair the world
3. can you remember?
candlelit room, cardamom
the softest cheese
a marking, a marker, a miracle
4. dance of the cutting board
you chop, he chops, we sauté
listening, singing, saying
what's true, lightly
5. enough can be a grace
a sufficiency, an abundance
eat to live? what's needed
only
while living
6. famine
7. grabbing the steel
to break the tight seal
on Carlo's handmade, dated
plum jam

rich, rich, rich
8. hope is a wafer

9. indigestion, the original joke
her rumblings abdominal
Election Day colonoscopy
indignities of the toilet
a bear shits in the woods
10. javelina, maligned hero
vegetarian
mostly

the community is fed;
the finder may keep a choice bit
11. killing comes first
—no, growth
—no, birth
—no, dirt
—no
12. lamentations
give up treats,
fast,
for health? for sin?
for feeling in the gut
the depth of loss
13. to devise a menu
collage of ripe red current popping
sweet slight crunch of roast celeriac
a haunch of something
have I said custard? I would paint your tongue with it
drop
by
drop
14. naturally
naturally?
death, then, and plenty of it
survival is overrated,
or more rightly:
a question of the long view

15. o, the open beak of baby oriole
cheery O of sunflower's clockless face
orbs and orbits tide and tend the years
16. planting, strength of tool, supple glove
fingernails carrying the memory
of plunging into the dark,
wriggling among worm and beetle
carrying loamy handfuls
breath to breath
17. quinine bite of tonic
chosen or prescribed
eating what's wrong, drinking bad water
who is the steward?
18. roll out the barrel
roll out the tablecloth
roll up in cars
roles in the family
rolls in the oven
feast
19. shh
there's nothing to eat
if I could nurse you
20. terrified of what may be growing in me
unwilling to countenance diminishment
I eat, and eat again, and eat again

just let me eat
21. the unfed are always with us
22. variety is the grain of life
spice will cost you extra
who eats the air?
the earth, the water—
whence, and wherefore, fire?

shhh

23. we break bread

24. x-ray shows no food
 only bone
x-ray a snake: all food, all bones

25. You, You, You!
 may I share so many meals with you—
 yarrow, yellow squash
 yangerine, yementines
 yeat! yegetables! yce cream!
Oh, You!

26. Zoology 101:
 Eat and be eaten.

amino

omega