

WHAT IS A POEM?

a poem—
or the writing of it—
is so many
different
things

processing
sounds
bouncing around
in our heads

taking a
seemingly arbitrary
object
and momentarily
putting it
in the spotlight

tracking an
emotion's behavior
in a wild
setting

the tree that
blossoms
and must be
captured—

not quite
as it is

but as it
resonates

or the
hopeless attempt
to name
the unnameable

to break
free
from the world
that is
my language

or to show
just how
confusing
this all is—

partly due
to the forms
we place on things
and their inevitable
resistance

or a poem
is perhaps
the brute desire
for a nice string
of phrases

and seeing how
they sit
restlessly
on a page

or the very
freedom
of participation
in the undefinable