

Claire Burnett
13 July – Free-write developed

MOUTH

Breathing aperture,
for drinking and eating.

Tongue's muscle and nerves
feels smooth teeth
and broken teeth.

Back to 1990,
that bedroom.
The shock and surprise – spitting out
broken white pieces.

Tongue senses the spaces beneath my nose
where once roots no longer exist.
Now used to the discomfort
of
man-made palette's intrusion.
Violating the softness -
 activating the gag reflex
 like an upside-down spoon.

Strangers recoil at unfurnished mouths,
so this mouth of mine sucks in the smoke
and sucks down the feelings.
This tongue of mine holds in that plate
for social niceties' sake.

Too long since
this mouth and it's lips
have been intimate
with the mouth of another -
exploring the intimate inside of another.

This mouth talks and smiles
and laughs;
 yet
 almost never
 articulates what I would like to express.