

# All Art Is Betrayal

*by* Sam Rasnake

Like the hot air balloon with its brief  
and staggered flight before falling  
to the ground in such a deadly heap.

Horse hooves pounding the river's  
smoky shallows, each furtive blast  
a world of probability against plague.

Wild geese over the city's rape to ruin  
in the silent rage that only distance gives.  
Or naked bodies, their torches lit, in a run

through a thick wood of midsummer mist,  
while the nightingale's song, much older  
than time, unfolds its deepest pleasure.

Vows to silence, then an ache for the real,  
for the impenetrable cold that defies the hand,  
for the impossible gift of a restless spring.

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