

1

What's the name that describes the thing
so shot through with meaning that
that it becomes what it signifies
Is that a rebus
A letter hiding in an image

As early as I can recollect
a dream stranger than most
Floating in defiance of all law
amidst celestial forms

Pure hardedged cold geometric
like great gods of a Platonic world
Surfaces of pure stealth
Rotated degree by slow degree
To tempt the figural

Lines taking themselves for a walk
A cosmic afternoon stroll
and I a witness to
that brief moment
when divinity let drop its mask

2

What is the name for the thing
that also does what it describes
filled so entirely with narrative that it
becomes the very story it tells

I can't recall a single color in this world
It had not the stuff of smell
Nor touch

A triangle spins
into an almost-nothing
a vertical slit
impossible to place
if not for the subtle arc of shadow
along a hair's breadth

I watched the gradient run
with fateful purpose
And knew how my body would buckle
as its point tilted
falling upon me
with the force of a blow

3

What's the name
eager to describe that
tells the story of itself

Another way to ask this question
what does a name hide behind
or in what can a name be hidden

What caused Wilde the greater offense
the intent to name
or that name's misspelling

What happens to sodomite
when the pen marks
an error

Does deviance
seep in and stain
the writing

4

What's the name
lonely enough to
become the thing it signifies

How does fire tell its tale
Language licked in flames
doused, ashed, rekindled
Fire is doing the writing

Heat chases the hand
faster across the page

Is the word hidden or freed
open or closed
censored or permitted

5

What's the name that
by sheer force of flourish
transforms into image

Does the optical expand
or discipline the senses

Colors that complement ideologies
can attack the eye
and mollify the body

Do these words
come more easily
illegibly and pictorially

Are you not just confusing
the thing
with the name

Have you learned the name