

WATER OF THE DOGE

My child dances in the yard, hair caressing the wind

Her big belly with a baby, bigger than a balloon,

her voice chanting

“Daddy takes me to the opera”

Ush ush Maria child of mine

They took my land

To build a sanatorium they said

What is a man to do after farming all his life.

Maria child of mine

of a lineage of mermaids, sea monsters and Doges

“Daddy takes me to the opera”

The boat is ready, the night still

The lagoon quiet and dark,

my paddle swooshes through the water,

“Daddy takes me to the opera”

She chants

Still water around and inside the boat,

Water on my hands calloused by farming

And then, a cry, and blood

Maria, my child with child

I hold my baby’s child to the moon.

I baptize thee Ada

With the water of the Doge.