

Poems

Suheir Hamad

break (shape)

shifting
gathering formation
to break

dahlia's giving ghost

life is sad bas beautiful
discordant melody chaotic
harmony a woman giving head
wa heart wa flesh

quantum

in qana eyes exploded wa vehicles wa children wa bisas

bas

rendering wa detention wa rendition wa redemption marginal
scarab
scurried broken arabic bonded trumpet hearted spinning word

bas

baalbek sunset
fairuz through cedar
licorice liquor wa raw meat
sweated mint wa sore hands
war behind wa ahead

in gaza still flesh is ashed
wa smoked wa denied
a woman's chest caves in
smoke escapes between legs

i was dreaming when i wrote this
habibi's prayers in my hands
i held his rhythm bi albe
he held me an instrument
an iridescent note

break (water)

abu-dis missing sunrise
abu-dis missing sunset

ground cipher groundless isis stretch searches pieces

my body upon cutting open
look for the broken bits
the aimless
leave them as found
wa finally leave a scar

trust only stars habibi a mirage a gold tree on chain spark trees on
lips smoke hawa over sunrise hennessy under pillow batata wa okra
dawn clave iron clove fist silver oasis oriki bata cinnamon offering
ana break into language insurgent

zam zam in desert
hagar springs isis remembers mary reaps
woman looking for body i think she is coming
the feminine in all of it i think she is coming
rain tears mist seas i think she is coming