

Moodus Noises

Machemoodus, Native American term meaning "the great noise of the earth"; thus the town named Moodus, Connecticut, near where a geological feature has given rise to spontaneous chthonic sounds.

All solutions have long since taken their graves
An elemental howl in the dark: behind your spectral dam,
angst accumulates. In southeastern Connecticut

you traipse miles of forest, gliding the contours,
tracing altitude: stalking the vertiginous plane of white pine,
visiting empty mobile homes, retreating to the trees,

watching opossums and thinking how
the cost of self-awareness brings with it
incongruence. You reach into your ghost's throat and,

constricting your erstwhile larynx, produce a sound.
Such battering of the air has been likened
to a pair of empty steel tanks attempting union,

or to the distant keening of the earth itself. Once,
a couple lingered in the woods, contemplating post-high school ennui,
while their hands plied each other's corporeal liens.

In the grey pre-dawn, along the beaten track of your wanderings,
you pursued what passes now for mystery,
as if, after centuries, you still had it in you to care.

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