They are newly orange, the leaves, glittering in the wind as they cover the sun. Prior factories of chlorophyll, they curl on branched arms, awaiting deliverance.

A gust clamors at the window. Dried leaves startle from the sidewalk, catching on the chain-linked fence. Unnerved, I clench my hand. Tendons pop out—veins on leaves. My fist jumps. Myoclonus, they call it.

An iced leaf on my windowsill. Delicate arrays reach over the browning pad. This frost will melt. Clarity will fade. Clumps less dazzling will invade, transform, and amass, rotting from within.

Downy tufts of snow. Clusters of molecules arranged within erratic white. They catch and coalesce into drifts. The contours revise then slowly bundle and collect in neurons.

Distorted proteins accumulate and, bit-by-bit, dismantle the folds I formed. My eyes quiver. My body curls. New shapes congeal and expand, blocking the traffic of my mind.
# Taking shape

Katie Antony

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