

**in the misperception of my life**

*after Adrienne Rich, "A clearing in the imagination"*

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II

in the misperception of my life  
i mistake being alive  
for wholeness, youth for ability  
misperceiving  
the gravity of the sea  
for consistency, forgetting  
the iceberg;  
and as i struggle, i mis-  
perceive dough for bread  
neglect the benefits  
of the warming oven;  
in misperception  
I run along footpaths,  
not the in the feline  
undergrowth of the forest  
floor, but out in the open  
exposed to the elements  
*gifts upon misprision growing*  
misprision all about me  
delusion rushing upon me  
as I wade through its slush  
ruthlessly rising to my necknape.

III

beguile; betray; cheat; confound;  
deceive; delude; dupe; error;  
fake; fallacy; fault; falsehood;  
illude; outfox; trick; unfound.

Michèle Betty

