

ALDO AMPARÁN

## Symptoms of Ghosts

*“The main reason behind the gay orientation of some men is that they are possessed by female ghosts.”*

*— Spiritual Science Research Foundation*

A murmur

in my right wrist

tells me there's something wrong

with the light, & the sound

of a finger snap

wakes my lover

every morning

at 3:46. Sometimes I speak

perfect English & know

it's not my own voice.

Age 12, I kissed

my first man

in my sleep: the chapped lips

of a boy

from my secundaria

searching inside me

for what? I woke up

levitating

over the wet mattress.

My desire ignited sudden

little fires

& the little fires so many  
questions. In a church,  
far from home,

I asked a priest  
what was wrong  
with my heart.

My yellowed heart  
a glitter bomb. My heart acid  
wash. My penitence

a prayer I keep  
unlearning  
to become proud

of this desire.  
I used to write  
my colors in past

tense: I was redded.  
I was blued. I was  
violented. Often

misspelled  
certain truths.  
I was 12

& kept asking why  
until the world said it:  
I lacked a father

figure. I'd been touched  
inappropriately by a man.  
So, it must be true

what the world now says:  
    my desire: not my own,  
        but the woman  
  
    singing in my breastbone.  
My lover awakens  
    to her song. He listens  
  
        to that disem-  
bodied music in my body  
& as he leans  
  
    in to taste  
        the bitterness of daylight  
    in my gums  
  
I'm grateful  
    for our ghosts  
        replaying their soft  
  
    ballad at the back  
of our throats.