

Flotsam and jetsam *gists and piths*
drafts and fragments ply over ply
all that glitters in the backwash
agitating the moonlit shingle

Upward working with the ear
more fanciful than Isidorus
in an effort to antecede
old Skeat's primordials

Fenollosa with the eye
intricating identities
stick figures and moving pictures
between nouns and pronouns, both eye

and ear more or less liberated
from the idea that the beautiful
is the hellenic caressible
the physically attractive,

both directing the reader's perception
to subsets of sense-data
not conventionally thought to be
units of meaning, both accounts

paying phenomenological
attentiveness to phonetic and graphic
linguistic paraphernalia
in their attempts to grant language

an inherent empathetic
immediacy by by-passing —
as the intentional structures revealed
by Agassiz' fish out of water

by-passed hit-and-miss evolution —
historically specific
dialogue that argues for meaning
as a collective achievement.