

Right Hand Raised

Y101a

Am I a witness
because I saw him slap
the mother of his kids?

The hand-shaped silhouette
tattooed onto her cheek
pulls at my caged heart.

Am I a witness
because I saw her bruise
their walls with silence?

She tried to drown
years of *what had been* but
the walls screamed back in violet.

Am I a witness
because I heard her silence
pierce like nightfall
into his chest?

Blood spatters soil
the canvas of his body. But I
do not paint with maroon.

Am I a witness
because I saw him carve
a blank sea in the
sockets of his eyes?

Am I a witness
if no eye beholds me? If
my hands are free of stains?