

## LEARNING TO MEND

“When the Japanese mend broken objects, they aggrandize the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that when something’s suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful”. -Barbara Bloom

When I was young  
I remember I broke  
Your favorite ceramic duck  
And so you wouldn’t notice,  
Carefully swept up each  
Piece in my hands  
So I could mend it with glue.

To repair what is broken in secret  
Stuck to you, I didn’t want to hurt you  
Destroy what you held dear.

Fragments of each scolding and embrace  
Glued together and now the duck stands on its own...

Years later, even the strongest glue loosens its grip  
Cracks on that duck begin to widen  
And a forgotten piece reveals a certain  
Vacancy, added complexity.  
Years later, maybe nothing’s changed except for my mind.