

# Losses in Translation

*by Gary Hardaway*

The brain will force the rest of the body  
to feel something that doesn't technically exist  
but is only imagined as its eyes read the painting

or look at the story reduced to its black and white  
field of symbols. Sometimes the story is music  
and sometimes equations and possibly

an ancient style of photograph. The brain  
must train itself to touch the symbols  
and feel them in cognitive leaps of faith.

All arts are difficult until the brain agrees  
on certain sets of possibilities the symbols  
represent. Art and the sciences are all

very difficult without the stones of equivalence  
and immersion in the fields on display. One  
can't always trust the eye and ear

in such matters but what can one do?  
Mistakes will be made. We hope  
nothing more serious than mistaking

sharps for flats or 4 apples for 9  
in the not quite legible dead man's hand  
on the penultimate page of his journal.

