



PROJECT MUSE®

Hammered Dulcimer

Lisa Williams

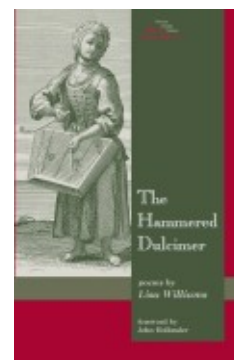
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A SPIDER

So many lines about the wind I weave.
So many lines, some of them taut
with particular gestures, some of them caught
on the edge of a house, or torn
and flapping in a violent storm.
So many thought-weighted, rock-ripped, time-worn
in the obstructed present.
No two the same, none spun as magnificently
as I aim them to be, most blown away.
All I can do is wind what courses through
my spirit, trembling instrument—old battered frame
on which the elements pour, play on, accrue
(I'd call it a lyre, but that would be too gay)
then send those filaments of soul
into sheer absence, needling the material
with a pronged and strange capacity.
The lines I make begin to shake things free
and yet fold brilliant glimmers of their colors
into a tapestry both false and brave.
At first, I only grasped the threads of others
but soon learned all would break, and none would save.
So many lines about the wind I weave.