NAMING

Don’t say love  Don’t say dreams
say land          say ocean
say rock and soil say water and salt

no, don’t say that
say igneous rock and acid soil say saline water and seasalt
say gray and brown say green and slate
or red clay and ochre desert or indigo deep and turquoise shallow
say hard thing and soft thing say wet thing and sliding thing

of the earth
say little pebble, say finest dust say smallest drop, say little ripple
say barn and building built upon say cave and cavern swimming
within
say car and train riding on it say boat and iceberg riding on it

no, don’t say that
say sedan stopping say sailboat tacking
say freight train say ice pinnacle

riding on
say man and woman and animal say fish and seaweed and whale
living there and within living under and within

no, don’t say that
say greyhound and koala bear say pilot fish, rockweed, orca
say man in tweed Irish cap say merman hiding beneath a ledge
say woman whose hair falls forward say silkie singing her endless notes
her breath rising, whose arms as she swims across the sea
are muscled with long pulling across the deep troughs of the water
say someone loves say someone dreams

no, don’t say that
say a man brings pasture roses say a woman is drifting beneath Orion
say someone holds someone say someone’s head is on the pillow
a long time, and their sleep is filled with gods,
and the darkness goes away and the darkness goes away.