

### *My Easy-Bake Oven*

*You're always putting things in your mouth,  
people told me. That's why  
you're always getting sick. I did not buy  
the Easy-Bake oven to create. I bought it  
to sterilize, kill, make ingredients harmless,  
put my fingers in a body to swallow my cargo,  
Easy-Bake as catalyst.*

*Ingredients: DNA, sustains, thesaurus words.  
I rolled, kneaded flour and butter, cut into animal-cracker shapes.  
The swan and the mule reduced anxiety.  
The mouse contained an ingredient that closed pores.  
I always tasted my own cookies first. I wanted to go as close  
to too far as possible but never  
go too far.*

*One mistake I made  
was a banana muffin. I ate one sample, took off  
all my clothes, and did not recognize my body.  
It had become a poem. I loved it  
at first. Poetry is the highest of language arts, I believed.  
Something inside every body needs poetry.  
My parents had eaten my scans  
and turned into songs, which was  
the same. Music and poetry fulfill a physiological need,  
not just cerebral.*

*I believed every body  
needed my body, not just loved it. They kissed  
my metaphors and ate my palimpsests. After a while,  
I stopped baking. I hated my body. I learned that  
there is nothing special or important about a poem  
just because I wrote it.*

—Christina Jessica Margaret Pailly

