

Catalogue of Damages

All these years not knowing
the difference between mammoth

and mastodon: just another
human so proud in her indifference.

It's in the teeth: mammoth teeth
resemble the rubber sole of a snow boot—

mastodon teeth, jagged mountains
turned to granite after all these years.

Jefferson thought the west still crawled
with mastodons, sent Lewis + Clark to thin the herd.

All morning I've tried to reconcile
our ambition with the misery it brings:

what we set out to do + what disaster ensues.

Eleven foot at the shoulder, Max
is the largest mastodon in the west.

Jefferson owned Sally Hemings.
I still can't make small talk with my father.

I told you this was a catalogue of damages.
Oh god, the mouth is such a weapon.

