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ISSUE TWO HUNDRED TWELVE | SUMMER 2020

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Cure for Thought

Hang wet laundry, as though it were thoughts.

Put a new load of soiled clothes in the washer
as though they were thoughts.

Shuck dried green beans
from the end-of-summer overgrown garden crop
that lay on the old door screen in the joists for two weeks.
Bring to a boil and let soak one hour.

Walk to the store in rain for celery.

Count trees with leaves still wholly green.
Smell the tang of those fallen ones like recurrent thoughts
returning to earth for another round.

View reflections in shop windows
as if they were someone else's.

Be curious, unexpectant.

Make small talk with the cashier
as if she were your sister
or grandmother as a young girl,
lip-ring and iPod of no consequence.

Return the way you came,
viewing the same trees and sky from the other side.

Chop vegetables. Rinse beans.
Throw all with ham hock into a large pot.

Cook, ladle into pint jars, process in pressure canner at 11 pounds for one hour.

Let cool.

Set in a dark place.

Listen.