

Richard Hoffman

SAYS WHO

Says the one who wants things different, not the one who wishes they had been.

Says the one who was injured.

Says the one who understands the first addiction's to the future.

Says the one who wondered why so long it changed his body.

Says the man who knows full well he should have spoken long ago.

Says the one who walks in the rain for the sake of walking in the rain.

The one who for her life could not decide to go until this morning,
and the one who removed, relieved, the pistol from his mouth,
chipping a tooth on the sight — they say so too.

And the painter of remembered sunsets and the glare off windows.

And the swimmer turning his head for air.

Says the one who, finished weeping, rakes the ashes.

Says the one who begins to see how things might fit together.

Says the one whose vigil is over, who blows out the candle at sunrise.

The one glad for spring, with the necessary seeds,
the one who explains why the lies were easy to believe,
the one who devotes himself to diagrams and descriptions,
and the one who chooses carefully among the many questions —
all of them say so, all of them.

Says the one who hurries from doorway to doorway.

Says the one who wishes to go on wandering.

Says the one who stands corrected and glad.

Says the one who helped knock down the ruined wall.

Says the one who declines to attend the banquet.
Says the one whose words travel farther than earshot,
who fabricates a name of letters from the alphabet of tears,
who merits the effort to understand,
who trembles, who stumbles, who laughs.