



Drawing: Cécile Wadlow

## Earth

Verona Bratesch

Earth too wants to increase.  
She turns into earth  
all of whatever she can reach.

She creeps  
up to the boards of the fences  
decay in her mouth.  
The boards sink down in her maw  
and water seeps through.

Don't you feel, when your hands are filled with earth  
her drive to destruction?  
And also the law  
to be thrust  
as a plant into light?  
And yet you love the earth.

Translated from the German by Ilse Pracht-Fitzell

