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Duomo—Florence, Italy

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the hesitation between a whim
clattering in the head and the clumsy
words formed at the mouth;
the panging chasm between when the eyes meet
and the fingers shyly interlace;

the *intermezzo* is the humid zephyr,
the *entre nous*,
between our lips just before the kiss;
between that tender spot,
that ingenuous cleft of your thigh,
and the moist, throaty ecstasy of abandon;

the *intermezzo* is the crevice of anticipation
where beauty abides, fleeting and innocent,
that weighty sleep between the days,
that achingly lovely gap,
that throbbing, purplish bruise
between our first, naked spasms
and our last, rattling breath.

-David Sapp
Huron, Ohio



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