

Work(ers) Song

In the beginning there were artichokes in the beginning there was asparagus
 there were knives made by nonno's hands that severed the hollow
shoots from the ground over and again and the repetition of the work
 was the work in the beginning there were names spelled out
on little papers all over the house because in the beginning the names are new
and the repetition of the work is the work in the beginning there were secrets
to get in and no way to get out in the beginning there was a sign
 in the window so they'd know you were enemy there was relocation
there was the having little saying nothing and being nowhere and the repetition
of the work was the work in the beginning there were waxy callouses
 on fingertips from pushing pins in the crosses that the bobbins made
and there was sewing sewing constant sewing binding and binding
 the fabric on fabric of it all together and the repetition of the work
was the work and in the beginning there was the hiding then
 the finding the two hiding people found each other and spoke in secret
the language of the enemy and they made life in that language made
 love in that language and that was the beginning of a new language
that demanded forgetting and the repetition of the work was the work