

DEANNA NIKAIDO

Zero

Whether you are remembering or forgetting
things are never what they seem,
whether you add or subtract
everything is multiplying—
not in columns the way you were taught
but in the unmemorized way what leaves your chest
lands inside another.

We spend our lives
proving what we touch
until it all expires
and we are left
with that invisible total
we began with.

You can almost ride it bareback.
You can almost run along side
this letting go.