

clay

*Shanti Basu*

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the ceramics professor said,

clay has a memory.

(it doesn't make sense to call her that,

as if she'd run her hands through soft matter in spectacles and a suit)

clay has a memory.

it will forgive you:

slamming boulders into valleys

sneaking corners into curves

smoothing creases with the heel of a fist

it will forgive you, but commit to memory

how your hands made pieces whole

how material became embedded with soul

clay has a memory,

do humans?