

Karl Plank

CLARITY

--after Georgia O'Keeffe's "White Canadian Barn ii" (1932)

We would have clarity
like the clean lines of a northern barn,
low and long, single-minded in devotion
to form's function.
We might shelter here.
Plain white walls,
broken by few, dark rectangles
resist any grave complication.
Simplicity is a clean face.
Lucidity, shut entries and a roof of midnight.
Yet, someone left ajar
the small stable door at the end,
as if he intended to return from a brief chore.
I'll be right back, he explains to his creatures,
stalled, languid for right now.
He has been called away, we think,
but has not come home,
the reasons not clear at all.

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