Possession

Ray Jane

Strange fruit swinging in my throat
it ain't my groan you hear
it ain't my rasp siphoning
bloodhound hollering in the trees
behind me

Naw, it aint mine

Not my snatched baby
still living on my placenta, not my
wailing mouth, pouring sorrow until
deafening

I told you, it aint mine

Can't claim deep scoff erupting
unapologetically from proud Moor
laughing in horror, as liberties lay
in the hands of those taught,
how to bathe

No, it aint mine

When love returns, finds itself in my mouth
gods unravel themselves
walk naked off my tongue, loud
and undeniable, proximity aside

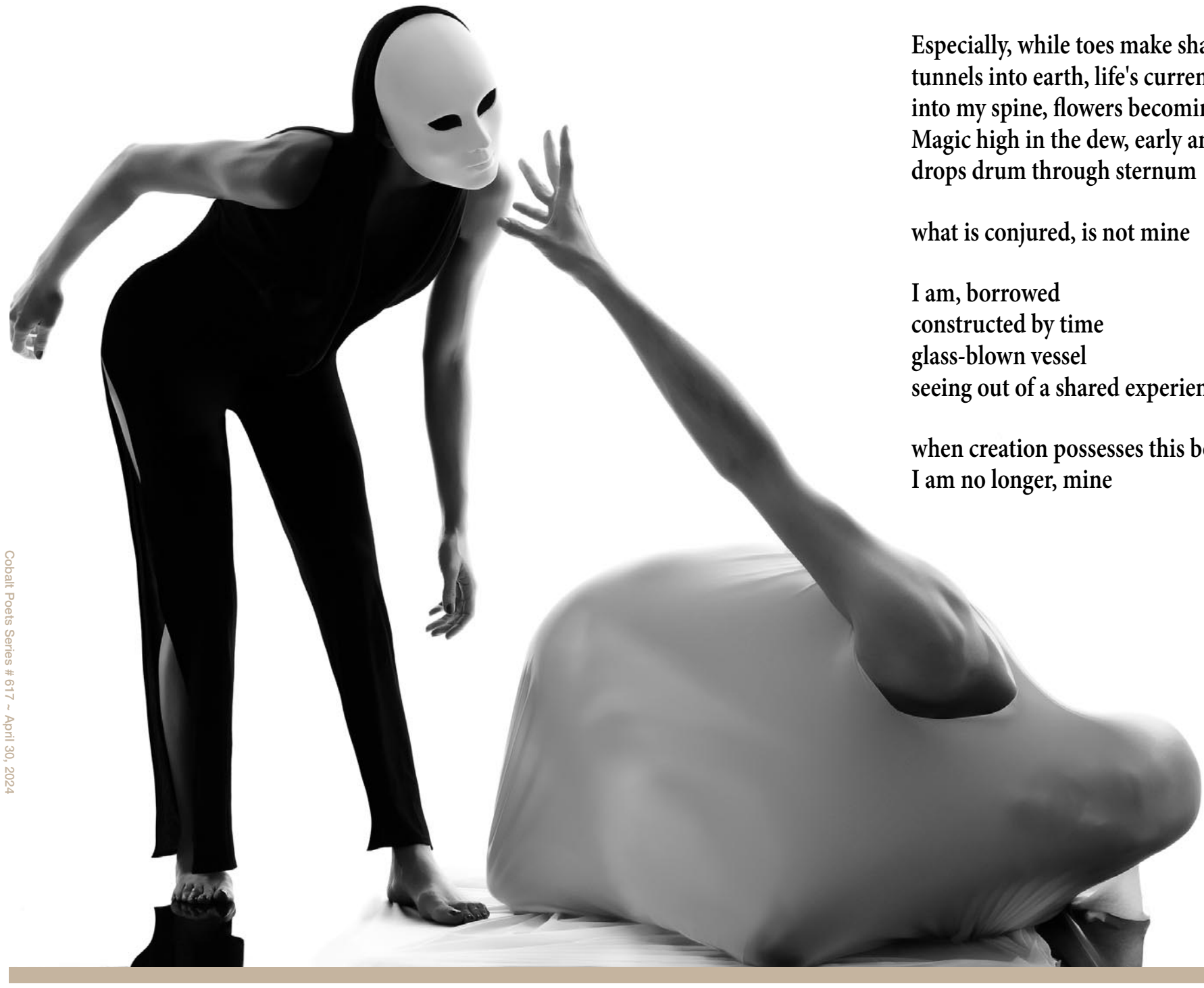
Still, aint mine

Especially, while toes make shallow
tunnels into earth, life's current rooted
into my spine, flowers becoming from spirit
Magic high in the dew, early and wet
drops drum through sternum

what is conjured, is not mine

I am, borrowed
constructed by time
glass-blown vessel
seeing out of a shared experience

when creation possesses this body
I am no longer, mine



Ray Jane is a Black female poet born in Brooklyn and raised in Far Rockaway Queens. She uses her poetry to lift herself and other women of color. Always aiming to strengthen her voice, Ray Jane won the Verb Benders slam poetry team's inaugural poetry slam and was published in Lalibreta.online an online poetry journal for Women in Creative Rebellion (2021, 2022). She has participated in poetic writing workshops focused on empowering women like "RoblesWrites Presents: Respite, Write, and Release™ amongst many others and served as contributing editor for the anthology Love Letters to Gaia (2021). She has also moderated her own workshops with ¡Oyé Group! Poet's Corner (2021 and 2022), Art Defined Inc (2022, 2023), and ran her own open mics as the host of The Nuyorican Poets Cafe Thursday Night Online Open mic (2022-2023) and for The Word Is Write (2021-23). You can hear more of how she uses her voice in over 50 recorded poems on SoundCloud (https://soundcloud.com/jay-ray-11), walking around NYC on the app Hear, Before https://www.hearbefore.nyc/; and on several podcasts including We Be Imagining/Black Siren Radio, and Sound Minds Podcast's "Potent Women Wordsmiths". To request full artist CV or learn more about Ray Jane visit ItsRayJane.com. IG:ItsRayJane. FB: Ray Jane.