set to smolder

Elyse Hart

i toy with tinder and renounce my gladness
lose grains of sand, gain beach flea swarms,
sip with pleasure milk warmed with amaretto

fingers were my motto—
a badge of honor worn at ends of wrists

at the end of fall came winter, except
it remained temperate

spoke with voice softened—a heavy task
made of glass and two sticks

gladness and hunger set to smolder,
seas in their flight, a path untraveled—
dirt unpacked and unraveled

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Elyse Hart is a poet and musician from Los Angeles. She is the author of the ekphrastic poetry collection, *Poems for Squares: 29 Instagram Accounts in Verse,* and the chapbook *White Noise Crucible* (Bottlecap Press). Her poetry has appeared in *Slipstream, The Nervous Breakdown, Maudlin House, Ghost City Press, Rogue Agent,* and others. Learn more at elysehart.com or follow her on Instagram @elysehartpoetry.