gender or desperation

liking me
is easy
involves the capacity
to fit yourself
into the crevices
of a vase
holding fluid
only takes a container
you
be the cup
i'll be the wine
the coffee
the liquor spilled on the sheets
a bed
could hold this wet too
i don't flood
won't make a wave
unless
given something to ripple against
still
i've learned
how to gouge out my pretty
for eyes that want
just tell me
are you the type
to drink
only after a meal
i can
change shape
whatever you're thirsty for
canal my curves
paint my nails
clip 'em back
peel them off completely
draw my clothes
from whichever closet i need to
i tell you
i am the body
you need me to be
i always come
back to the container
i'm not leaking
fluid just seeps through
every now and then
hold me
in your hands
and sip
i go down
easy

Justice Ameer
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Photo by Jimmy Gaines

Justice Ameer is a poet, facilitator, and political educator in Providence, RI. Xe is a co-founding member of blackearth collective + lab. Xe is a Pink Door Fellow and Faculty member, and xe was an Artist-in-Residence at Williams College in Spring 2020. Ameer co-created the theatrical production *ANTHEM* with Chrysanthemum at American Repertory Theater's OBERON. Xyr work can be found in Split This Rock, the Academy of American Poets, POETRY magazine, The Nation, and various anthologies and journals.