
POETRY | SPRING 2022

Architecture of Anatomy

By Anastasia Vassos

I remind myself there is no dying
without living
as the technicians slide me into this metal coffer.
They want to see the compromised pillar of my spine.

The machine realigns the water molecules of my fragile scaffolding—
bone, muscle, ligaments rinsed clean in magnetic resonance
the shifts in frequency
sirens in the room
I am tied to the mast
a doppler wave washes over my body
and somewhere an opera tenor joins the cacophony.
Is that a bend in the light?

An image tomorrow will show how the discs
of my vertebrae resemble
the ruins of a temple.

I want my body's Doric order restored—
like the strongest of columns in the Parthenon
before the explosion.

Bio: Anastasia Vassos is the author of *Nike Adjusting Her Sandal* (Nixes Mate 2021). Her poetry has been anthologized widely. Vassos speaks three languages and is a long-distance cyclist. IG: [anastasiavassos](#) TW: [@a_vassos](#)

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