

Sign Language

She mouths all the words, gestures beyond
her hands' abilities when vowels are too full
and fall from the edges of her fingers or when
there isn't a motion or contortion for that word.

She continues: for those to whom sound
makes no noise; for me, who can't understand
a sentence without seeing words spilling over lips—
the tongue a lone cannoneer.

I don't know sign language but when she puffs
out her cheeks, her hands mimicking pregnancy's shape
before her small frame, then they collapse to sadness.
Her words snake through the crowd—so loud.