

the groundhog in my backyard teaches me about decolonization
by Amelia Meister

he says you are the medicine animal
because this is what you eat:
violets, dandelions, yellow dock

you do not touch the goutweed:
a strange invader with questionable ethics

he says i can make drums from your skin
like the Wyandot, Seneca and Cayuga
they filled the clay pot with water
pulled your hide tightly and
you drank eternally in their ears

he says you're probably pregnant again
this year more medicine animals
more little drums
to eat my peas and beans
to destroy my lettuce and beets