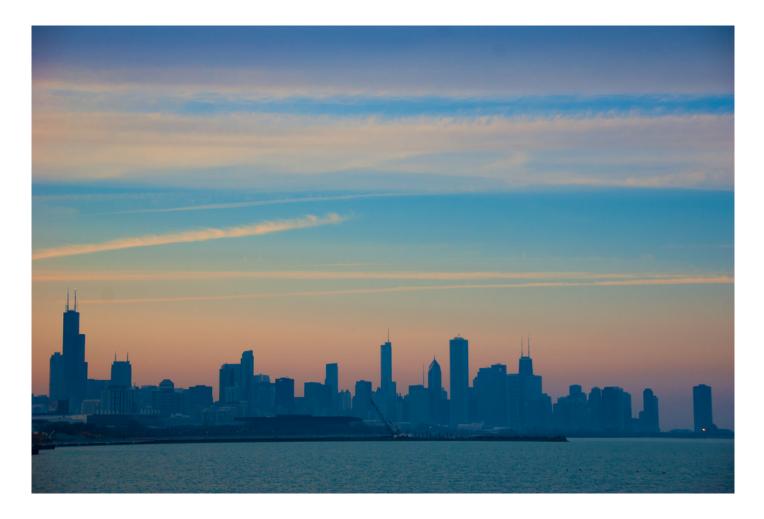
## Water in Chicago [1]

October 1, 2018 <u>Featured Poetry</u> [2] <u>Politics of Place</u> [3]

# Poem by Ayla Goktan



## Water in Chicago

I chose this city because of what the lake taught me the first time I saw it: happiness is saturation

Part of me believes this, but part of me condemns: I am too beholden to aesthetics; I upset myself

Every "I," every eye, is political— Mine as I stand on the edge of the sand

(function(i,s,o,g,r,a,m){i['GoogleAnalyticsObject']=r;i[r]=i[r]||function(){ (i[r].q=i[r].q||[]).push(arguments)},i[r].l=1\*new Date();a=s.createElement(o), m=s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0];a.async=1;a.src=g;m.parentNode.insertBefore(a,m) })(window,document,'script','https://www.goofflege 1 of 3 analytics.com/analytics.js','ga'); ga('create', 'UA-18260536-1', 'auto'); ga('send', 'pageview'); The eye of the lake, regarding sky

The eye of the camera that captured the earliest surviving photograph

(For though I thought it would choose a person, it, too, found worth in a view)

And the eye of the temple in Wilmette, reminding me that even beautiful things we think are free go unseen by the poorest among us

(Matthew Desmond writes of a woman native to Milwaukee who's never seen the lake)

So how can I enjoy what lies before me? And yet, I do— Dusk comes; it changes things, rippling pinks across the powder blue of lake and sky Variation gives meaning to distance, and I imagine I can almost glimpse all the evenings I'm meant to spend here spread before me; pocket evenings I could hold in my palm, somehow extending to the rim of the world

The lake strikes up my hunger, then tames it; limits the city's searching lights Years from here, I will know what I don't know now: Every time until the last time I flew out of Chicago at night, I looked beyond the airplane's thumbprint window, and onto every darkness, I projected water

## **Publishing Information**

- <u>"The First Photograph"</u> [4] (circa 1826), Henry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
- Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond (Crown, 2016).

### Art Information

• "Pastel City [5]" © Eric Allix Rogers; Creative Commons license.

(function(i,s,o,g,r,a,m){i['GoogleAnalyticsObject']=r;i[r]=i[r]||function(){ (i[r].q=i[r].q||[]).push(arguments)},i[r].l=1\*new Date();a=s.createElement(o), m=s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0];a.async=1;a.src=g;m.parentNode.insertBefore(a,m) })(window,document,'script','https://www.googlege 2 of 3 analytics.com/analytics.js','ga'); ga('create', 'UA-18260536-1', 'auto'); ga('send', 'pageview');



Ayla Goktan graduated from Northwestern University in 2017 with bachelor's

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