

Winter 2008

## Front Cover

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# LINFIELD

Winter 2008

MAGAZINE

## Oak Fallen

It never knew itself as oak  
or old or anything but root, trunk,  
leaf, an ecology of collaboration.  
Part dirt, part air and moon,  
part dim and blinding sun,

it made of itself lifetimes  
of shade and pattern, lichen, a habit of crows.  
It made of itself a majesty  
of instruction so intricate, commonplace  
and intimate, we feel the loss.

Earth speaks the one language it knows.  
Obligations and gratitudes, pleasures,  
courage, joy – we make of it what we make.  
One oak is a sand in the cosmos.  
It is the fact and mystery we celebrate.

– *Lex Runciman*