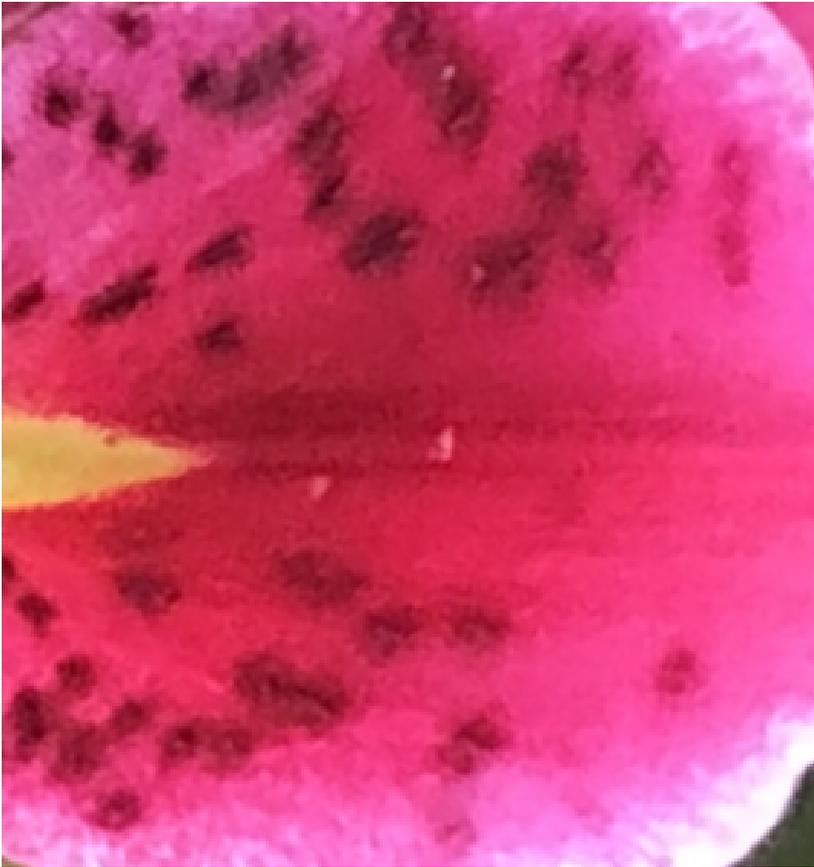


New Poetry by Maggie Harrison: "Clutch and Bless"



MY RASPBERRY HEART / *image by Amalie
Flynn*

CLUTCH AND BLESS

my heart is a raspberry
juicy yet taut
fragile

temporal

eat it now

before it degrades and

leaves a tasteless

piece

of itself

smearred on the basket.

my raspberry heart lives in the moment

but not my gut

my gut dreams

unpredictable

digesting whatever latest bout

I've consumed

pandemic fear

fear of white supremacists

indignation

incarceration

playacting colonization with real guns on the

range

a night in jail to protest police violence

hope for change

the audacity to hold it

all of this roils

my gut

terribly

tangled in the past

it's what I ate yesterday and am now

transforming

to expel in the future

my raspberry, my beating heart

crush it, suck it through your teeth, and savor