

# Autism

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I.  
The electricity in my sister's brain doesn't work right; left  
with deviations in gamma and alpha and theta beta  
delta,  
she spends her days beading jewelry, intricate like  
archi  
London          tec  
ture  
woodworked  
remnants of an empire  
that, through water, commanded a world.  
Looping plastic cords through tiny holes in plastic orbs,  
she commands an empire  
at her desk, crafting pulsating  
matrix after matrixaftermatrix after matrix,  
navigating her  
monologue in the sea.  
When she was younger, she banged her head against walls.  
Neuroscience tells me that maybe there's an explanation in  
the gamma band—  
the crumpled pieces of white paint from the kitchen wall falling,  
the rain dance of her coagulation cascade precipitating  
tonic  
clonic,  
contingencyplanning my mother and I in  
convergence beneath the telephone, wired, wall-mounted,  
silent—all of this  
an avalanche excommunicated to a valley by 90 Hz          neurillations  
onal    osc  
in the wrong places.  
II.  
"I made this for you," she says to me, my  
older sister.  
III.  
The electricity in my brain doesn't work right.  
At some coordinate, I am simply a boy suffused in heartbreak, licking  
wounds left by a girl, "just like in the movies"; elsewhere,  
I serve the Castilian Crown! I am partly Amerigo Vespucci,  
by way of the Latin *Americus*,  
charting cortico-cortical seas of  
normal  
saline!  
Petaflops away though,  
I am always underneath  
a fixed plastic telephone on a white wall, years  
ago, with  
the slightest impression of my mother on the  
other side of me, amidst a  
synaptic monsoon.

Listen to Saurabh Sinha read this poem, available on the iPad® and Android™ devices.

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