



In response to Joan Stolpen
Breaking Through

Waiting for Breakup

We don't break through
unless we are brought low.
The last step is defeat.
No one volunteers for it.

In spring the ice
moans and screams,
pushed to breaking point
by the swollen river.

There are other ways—
white petals unfurling
from a black bough—
but not for us.

We break before we flow.

Morgan Farley
Roaming Writers



Joan Stolpen, *Breaking Through*, encaustic, on wood panel, 24 x 24 inches