### Amit Majmudar

I want to be more
Than just a letter
In a word. I want
To mean
Something. I want
All by my lonesome,
Self-sufficient
As a rune.
Maudiz, need.
Elhaz, yew.
Ansuz, god.

Self-Portrait as Rune

## Martine van Bijlert

slender and unhurried water drips off the oar

> be a dreamer on a little boat

grows up to grows peaner

self-portrait as an ancient woodblock print

### Josp Massey

sometimes things hurt more than they should

> it's okay if you don't want to read it

I am writing a poem about lemons

Self-portrait as a Dutch still life painting

### Erica Fransisca

that falls not far from the tree; apple tree in the poisonorchard of the evil queen.

Self-Portrait as Apple

## Self-Portrait as Punctuation

I am a colon: sometimes shuffling an explanation your way; sometimes a drum major heading a list. Now often cast aside: a dash subbing for me; the upstart comma inserted after business greetings as if the letter were friendly. I'm open for new ideas: to save dignity; to burn energy; to find my way into hearts, minds, sentences, even poems.

Margaret Rozga

## self-portrait as definition

saturnine sat·ur·nine \'sa-tər-nīn\' adjective

- (of the poet) woman as space race or manhattan project, titan-mooned gloomlurker, capricornian lunacy, outer satellite as product of a belt
- (of the poem)
  a bluet, a ring
  bearer of disappointment,
  a daughter
  six times removed
  from the sun, a jeremiad
  deadlocked in sidereal space

#### J. L. Bermúdez

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