**Defended**

the season is tired

it has done it’s best

but has failed in the end

it is winter’s desire

to pin me

a frozen butterfly

in it’s charnel museum

of those too stupid

to fly south

usually

by this time

i carry a bucket

to hold my icy tears

not wishing to leave a trail

this year

i have been vaccinated

against grey

i am immune

to cold

i am defended

against the rains

in their myriad forms

tell no one

it’s warm beneath your skirts

and i have no intention of sharing