

Claire Ince



a study in students

international students have return tickets and I-20s
use boarding passes as bookmarks
convert US prices to home currencies
can't envision being surprised by residency

they remember the names of things and roads
have more than a trace of an accent
don't have originally tacked on when folks ask them where they're from
protest against winter and other encumbrances

they are not complacent about airports and goodbyes
don't have a credit history or a basic handle on Halloween
haven't had memory perjure itself in nostalgia
still speak in absolutes — God, colors, home.

