Straw Lives (After the Fires)

Susan Adams

burnt blood
    blackens sky
    burdened with ash

we inhale
    our history
    to stay alive

tears scar
    soot skin
    tattoo pain

leave hollow
    orphans with
    handicapped lives

futures die
    beat empty dreams
    beat and break

parchment is tinder
    memory the epitaph
    that reminds us