

The closer you look the faster I disappear  
Rami Karim

The closer you look the faster I disappear.  
If I know myself the same way you want to  
know me I'll end up knowing nothing. The  
difference between knowing and dissecting is  
in how you talk about it afterward. Or don't  
say anything actually. Please.

Words and phrases to look out for this  
year: critical, body, locate, digital, research,  
render, architecture, queer, landscape,  
symposium, decolonial, diaspora, praxis,  
space, extend, radical, excited to share.

I came of age in a time and place when  
those around me were afraid to be known  
as bigoted. Afraid to say the n-word or  
homophobic slurs, to out their parents  
as racists or ask where I'm from without  
context. Clumsy mistakes that college-  
educated America has become adept enough  
at avoiding in public.

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It is neither romance nor nostalgia to say  
that violence was once easy to identify.

When I stray from the mango tree spiral I'm  
told it's too abstract. I really wanna get it  
but it's just like, what are you saying?

She is "she" and "they" combined.

Remember that time I invented queer theory?

We love when structural analysis gets  
weaponized against specific people in ways  
that don't make sense.

Falling asleep is my most salient identity.

How many words should I make up to be  
taken seriously? If the door was the trap  
then I'm stuck here in the frame, howling.

Rami Karim is a writer living in New York.

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