On Richard Long’s ‘Sculpture Left by the Tide’ (Cornwall, 1970)

As formative as sand and wind
and sweep of water weight
to delicate imprint code
of outer inward death awaken
to encircle origins inside
the matter-seeded all
of all clinging in-organics’
cellular activities sheltering
outside spiral outside
what we see we grab
as bursting out of desire
to follow a trail no further
than our widest departure
early on the big trek not
to risk again as shutdown
or entry into another spatial
decorativeness these after-lives we latch onto life
back there somewhere as
seen in Long’s spirals
since buying a book of photos
as a student and then gallery
on gallery around the traps
bringing outdoors indoors
stepping back out into
real things and reclaiming
spirals for all our selves.

John Kinsella