

Apres Coup

time is supposedly what it takes to move a mind
through a space.
to the extent you can imagine a place, but not reach it
there's a future
& to the extent you can recall a place, but not return to it
there's the past.

an event approaches,
the event presents itself,
& the event recedes.

but then there are events that act progressively & retrogressively
in & out of time
to prevent the mind from becoming the kind of
discrete thing
which can move coherently through a space.

a bruise appears.
you suddenly remember how you got the bruise
or you don't.
the bruise blooms backwards with or without your regard.

she asks if I'm okay
I realize that I haven't been
& wonder what, in the end
he will have done to me.

the facticity of history isn't at issue here,
just the ontological assumption of unidirectionality of causation
& whether it is of any use to try to be present
if the current moment becomes coherent
only upon representation & recognition.

which is to say:
at this point, we would both prefer that I could stop blaming him for every found scar.

