## Reverence

I have searched every inch of this skin looking for something permanent

Something familiar

a relic or a treasure (history) has tucked away on a rainy day

and forgotten about

something I can bow my head to in reverence

but things in motion are always fleeting hard to define and imperfect

we are imperfect

The roads in this city are always under construction there are always new buildings being built there are always old building being torn down the air is more filled with their ashes than sunshine this is the only memorial they will ever get things are changing

things are breaking down

even the sidewalks in this city that I love have cracks in them and on bad days they are just that cracks in cement

but sometimes on good days they are battle scars and on the best of days they are remnants of a story we have all been writing for centuries let us write let us embark let us destroy and recreate without worry of the impermanence of flesh and mortar I am learning the importance of all that is fading Learning how to cradle things that are dying in my chest and things that are living in my hands I have made a border-town of my ribcage I will not mourn all that is temporary I will not search for anything tangible Instead I will be bold and courageous with the knowledge that That there is nothing built around us that cannot be reduced to rubble And re-built again and again And again We can be rebuilt again and again and again Samantha Badaoa | Youth Poet Laureate Read at Windsor City Council | March 25, 2019