# **At Cross Purposes**



## By Samuel Menashe

1

Is this writing mine Whose name is this Did I underline What I was to miss?

### 2

An upheaval of leaves Enlightens the tree Rooted it receives Gusts on a spree

### 3

Beauty makes me sad Makes me grieve I see what I must leave

#### 4

Scaffold, gallows Do whose will Who hallows wood To build, kill

## 5

Blind man, anvil No hammer strikes Your eyes are spikes

Samuel Menashe, "At Cross Purposes" from *Samuel Menashe: New and Selected Poems*, edited by Christopher Ricks, published by The Library of America, 2005. Copyright © 2004 by Samuel Menashe. Used by permission of the author.

Source: Samuel Menashe: New and Selected Poems (The Library of America, 2005)