

Touch Hunger [It's a real thing], 2020

Daonne Huff

“What is most impressive in the hospitals is not the ventilators, CT scanners or other high-tech wizardry. It’s the compassion and courage of health workers, and the intervention that struck me the most was decidedly low-tech — the hand-holding.

Katherine Chavez, a nurse at Montefiore Moses, recalled a man in his early 40s with no medical history. He was intubated, and she spent 12 hours by his bedside as he struggled for life. “He would grab my hand, and I just kept telling him that everything is going to be OK,” she said.”

Life and Death in the ‘Hot Zone’ by Nicholas Kristof, NYTimes digital edition,
Sunday, April 12, 2020

To Start: WASH UP

I talk dirty to an empty room

Was Goldilocks feeling deprived?
Just close your eyes and say,

"Ahhhhh."

[beat]

ACTION:

Straddle

Wrap

Fold

Mold

Drape

Squeeze

Hold

Embrace

Cuddle

All Furniture in the room you inhabit
that previously was

touched by
occupied by

another

[beat]

Hug a tree they said
Just close your eyes and say,
"Ahhhhh."

[beat]

Now take an inventory around you / of Your surroundings now / How much is / smooth edges,
rounded forms, bright hues, warm & consuming sinking beckoning close comfort into /
Touch? / How much is / sharp corners, hard lines, cool hues, cold & shunning detracting
rejecting close comfort into / Touch? / Where do you linger? / What do you hold? / What do
you share?

[resume]

Why are the birds so loud now? Is it because the traffic has subsided?

No,
it's mating season.

You are your safest and most devoted lover.

Just close your eyes and say,

"Ahhhhh."

To End: WASH UP