Untitled (1984)†

Mary C. Dunlap

In the world I work and long for
Women do not get wounded
For being women.
And men do not fight wars
For being men.
Color does not clash with color.
Every color is beautiful, necessary
In its relation to every other.
Dream on, scoff the cynics, dream on.
In the world I am in now
I am one infinitesimal speck of life
Who believes it possible
For this world to be more and more
The one I work and long for.
And in the dream world
There is never too much loving between women,
There is never too much loving between men,
And wrong ways of touching
Are intimately discovered
And intimately changed
In care for the person touched.
The hand of the law does not seize or strike
Me, or anyone, for who we love.
Homophobes embrace lesbians.
Fag-baiters, fag-bashers reach out to gay men
As people.
Lesbians, gay men, forgive, comprehend, hug back
And the cynics learn to swim
In tears of joy.

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†. This poem has been previously published in a photographic collection entitled We Are. LISA KANEMOTO, WE ARE (1984). The copyright has been released by Maureen C. Mason, Mary Dunlap’s partner, and Lisa Kanemoto.