

APOLOGY

Overthrown by the armed forces, I numbed myself
in the Yoga Industrial Complex.

I numbed my social consciousness
and I am very sorry

I am very sorry for my lack

Of shame, I remain in denial

Of faith, what I'm trying to do

involves cropping an image: cutting
out the bad parts so only the necessary body

remains alongside a large "V"

indelibly marked on my breast.

Declare the fish: I am to be branded.

In an interview, I clear my throat

but cannot state my name.

— Claire Donato, originally published in *Ninth Letter*