

Lake Michigan Collage

By Georgia Ressmeyer

The long, slow reach of waves on days
when they're opposed by gusts
is resolute and patient —

gliding under the wind's radar, advancing
up the beach in silent sweeps that never
cease making statements

on clean, flat sand about the curl of
willow leaves, birches' gold arrowheads,
the symmetries of oaks.

Though distant waves may lash and roll,
on this perfect canvas of protected shore
a smattering of leaves is all.