

I AM TRYING

(
an old metalhead cries in his mom's basement regrets his life's
dream gathers griefwater onto six strings wails on

tape. a zydeco legend admits he is powerless over
alcohol weeps onto his

accordion. a soul singer's best friends get sober to show her
it can be done her best songs say

it can't. an attendant washes the dead emperor's
robe an attendant wipes blood off the marble

floor. an actor falls on TV like a painkiller through the
pain an actor cleans the world with

comedy. a nurse pumps the actor's stomach (she's a big
fan a young medic looks hard at what Hollywood

won't: what the head looks like
after. to the

(anxious
who see the ugly

angels
guts of the world

the River
and don't look

of Broken Hands
away

who learn its width
wade into the ugly

and depth and
Ugly

legs first
accept it

and with baffling grace
and go to work

organizing
even as they are

assembling
disassembled

hosanna
god bless

hosanna
the Swimmers))