

## BLUE ABSENCE OF SPACE

—after Yves Klein’s (1928-1962) series of paintings *Anthropométrie* in which nude female models served as “live” paintbrushes

He’d scoop a handful of monochrome IKB 3 (ultramarine blue)  
to spread across a woman’s nude body. The live paintbrush  
working the wall-sized canvas before an audience:

never touched the absence-of-color/color-of-space-itself blue  
but being touched by blue’s hand-smearred blue  
blinding her body in blue and directing a breast a thigh to canvas.

When the brush didn’t do it right, Klein would strike the nude blue body  
from the stage, then he’d destroy the canvas in a fit. But  
when it did work out, he’d accept the ovation

as if it were his body broadcast, as if he’d ever smothered blue  
his suit or bow tie. When he died, the woman propped-up in an old tin can,  
bristles hardening from disuse and blue.