

Simian

In what is the first documented case of active wound treatment by a wild animal, Rakus, a male Sumatran orangutang, treated his facial wound using a medicinal plant in June of 2022.

In our understanding of the differences
between you and us, there is a gap. A gap,

too, in your face—deep and bloody,
the result of a fight with a fellow primate,

treated with juice and chewed-up leaves.
In a jungle of our making, we, too, fight

each other for a patch. Thinking ourselves
beyond branches, we trademark and package,

turn green to steel. *This tree mine, this one
yours. These seeds mine, these fruits yours.*