

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Claire An: Two Poems

Claire An · Monday, October 23rd, 2023

at home

form a prayer
empty gods
butterflies
between thin
strings of
potent glories
eat them

my mother
ate them

i forget to
clean the dishes of my
hundred poems
written on the side
of the dining table

a notebook for
the starving
lips open
to devour
something holy
windows in cornerstone
hearts float into balloon
towards heaven

my mother planted
in earth
shoes of grass
waves goodbye

*

before the street

we visit a home we no longer belong to
 i finish eating mango ice cream in a cafe
 i never visited
 i tried not to sleep b/c i need to be awake
 in the city to be remembered but
 i am grasping my mother's hand
 filled with soft, worn, and blue veins
 i am afraid to let her go
 in her home country.
 the street, faded red and black
 concrete, i have embedded the shadows of my steps
 into you hundreds of times, years ago
 the sky of the small street holds wires
 intersecting sketches of pencil
 i always looked towards the heavens
 paper thin realms.
 buildings must be fifteen years old.
 windows and mismatched signs penetrate the walls
 for the first time
 i pass through the street in a window
 of a car older than me,
 more relic with me
 a photo i have
 in broad daylight
 fail to capture the lights
 of the signs at night
 the voices intermingling
 a strange song
 i cherished
 before we visited the home
 we no longer belong to

This is a series of writing to come from the amazing teen writers who were part of CSSSA (California State Summer School for the Arts) 2023. For most, these will be their first publications.

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