

# 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

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*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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