

Stevie Hinton

"Peeking In"

The world is a tilt, a blur!
grout and tile crack this face,
fat pillows crush me... Mine!
My ears hum in pitches;
the piper played piccolo.
Pepper pickled, oh!
on this, my kitchen floor,
DEAD NOW;
cardiac arrest
galore?
Peeking, I was, into the refrigera-tor.

"Road Trip"

I.

This time two years ago,
I dropped two hits,
lit a clove cigarette,
sat backseat,
wedged by hips,
my cheek cold
from the window it fogged—

Jacob drove
a second language—
one clutch from crash,
he shifted threats
he swerved, no, accelerated, no—
no breaks,

my skin shriveled,
had I crows feet?
had I wizened? creased?
with one fingertip, I touched and
no worries, no wrinkles, no—
no face

The night heaved,
Jacob's index finger and thumb
held together by a hollow star
tattooed in black—
he screwed his face round,
cheek against the shoulder
of his seat,
egg white eyes,
moon white teeth,
No, he said at first, No,
what are you doing here?
what the fuck are you doing?

I sat inside the question,
it pierced from all angles,
I throbbed, but the engine stopped.

II.

Cross-legged on the sand.
wet grains, ground through my toes,
Shadows swam through the wind.

Jacob emerged from a crack in the ocean,
a stick figure at first,
he marched forward until,
I smoothed denim on the backs of his legs

Jacob bent,
You're not there babe,
he chuffed,
You're not there;

I shrank to eye level,
and followed the line back to the clown car—

This trip, Jacob.
and whatever scraps of flesh,
shards of bone piled up,
against the window, fogged—
I dissolved to salt
my hand yet remained
and every time I looked, it changed size—

III.

Yellow bled across the windshield,
again we stopped,
climbed from the coffin car
I was last to meet daylight.
I stood in a murky haze,
the rest had gone,
the world bleached from my grasp—
silence flooded my throat.
There was nothingness
What do I do now?
Every house was a mirror
Of the image it used to be
The streets were a maze
But the rats were dead.
The rats inside my head.
Jacob reappeared
But this time, I was blind.