

THE TINY

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Kimberly Alidio

Relative meaning (Smith, Whitten, Bradford, Neguli)

theory of arrangement, dangling zippers
hoodie tongues out, snaps hanging, irregular pattern
“the history of each object is absorbed into whole clusters
of color and relative meaning”
tactile interest and surprise contained by a grid
compression by overstuffed
“Places to Love For”
unpainted whites of canvas in winter
Eye of Providence, molten material, ash (“9.11.01”)
removing the paint and holding it in hand
Mid-Atlantic post-traditional, light in winter
“RSVP Reverie-O”
pantyhose energy residues
who wore them last

Ditches of Santa Cruz

1.

40 species of dragonflies have returned since June.
Thereafter a nonsoon. During WWII, my
dad and his parents fled to their hometown on the banks of
the Santa Cruz.

Bio blitz: lichen and moss are homes for
tardigrades (ie, water bears or moss piglets, phylum
of water-dwelling eight-legged segmented micro
animals).

We might be reclassified as a scrub zone.
A river colloquially known as dead. Breathe out the mouth
to create moisture around creosote, breathe in through the
nose to smell rain.

2.

Sparser snowfall classifies
the Arctic coast as an *emergent desert*
like the Chihuahuan where
55m or 90% of mature piñon is

Already dead and gone
between 2001 to 2005
long enough to move
the margin to essence

Of a thing *biodiversity*
soon wildly pristine
& open to oil & gas dvpt
on New Year's Day

BC barred Unist'ot'en from
checkpointing pipeline
workers on unceded
Wet'suwet'en Territory

Which is some human stain
of fast and slow vanishing

3.

sometimes your rocks surface
along the lungs of a
misnamed house

sometimes your old locks
take a beating on the banks of Lethe

sometimes a silty run
along mile 48.75 of the De Anza
sometimes we're missing cottonwoods
and instead

we have tamarisks

sometimes female brooms seed
the paved path with snow
sometimes more catkin
than leaf
(it is spring)

sometimes
mucilage sometimes basket
sometimes germinate
from traveling animal
sometimes devils catch ankle

sometimes stone is archeological
old cake tiers ringed by green fence
sometimes you concubine
to nominees
sometimes empires sit
along banks of cheese

sometimes slime chokes groundwater

even if

sometimes effluence

sometimes change comes eroded gain

sometimes you are mistaken for frost

sometimes flow up continent

sometimes you belong

to another

sometimes you are terminal

sometimes the mayfly

sometimes austerity

breeds mosquitos

in swimming pools left half-wild

sometimes the topminnow is the avant-garde

sometimes you smell echo

open meshes and dove-gray edge

of exhaust

sometimes eucharist flocks raucous whitewing

sometimes white-nosed feed on agave nectar

sometimes leaf stigmata open

tiny floodgates

sometimes graythorns rip pages

sometimes brown pods tear from spines

sometimes dried-up dedications are ground

by a community hammermill in the fall

polarities

braid object

broad continental

letdown compare vein

open

wordless trance

intemperate clement dust

lampoon

looting ritual wash

palace wall

trans censor
desert naked
spirit rect array
mediates
retune s genre
refracts go
culted slate
seeds

wild errands

nervous millennials

chain fruit

hookups

pronghorns

no leaves

out your bottles

automatic

then quiet 7lbs a day

discounted corpse glorified litter

at your desk materia unstaked

next author>>>

Kimberly Alidio is the author of *why letter ellipses* (selva oscura), : *once teeth bones coral :* (Belladonna*), *a cell of falls* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs), and *after projects the resound* (Black Radish). Her prose on poetics, memory, historiography, and postcolonialism has appeared or will appear in *Harriet*, *Poetry Northwest*, *American Quarterly*, *Social Text*, and the essay collection, *Filipino Studies: Palimpsests of Nation and Diaspora*. Her website is kimberlyalidio.com.



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