

reflection

originally published in *The Murmur House*, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2016

oil-stained pavements slick with
rain it is dark and this fluorescence does
not do me any favours this mirror is not friendly
reflection so close and eyes far away

my pores large like my body
are emergency exits from my skin

this is not a drill/ hear the church bells ringing faintly
like sirens and backing away from this glass
my pulse quiets

Doppler effect practically tangible

abandonment issues

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pearly gray fog on the harbour
all-terrain vehicles of retroactive birth control
fiddleheads and turnip greens

wedding gift toaster from
the piano-fingered grandfather emeritus
he forgot about Saturdays

by the lone public payphone
an abandoned smoothie, like vomit,
sweating in the late June heat