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Chink

Helena Chung

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HELENA CHUNG

CHINK

In small towns too, lines dictate
my feet's course, the glottal
rain gathered against the curb. I live
in awe of other people, their body-moves
through grainy scenes, how time crosses
quick on a bridge. The trains pass
underneath without ceremony, clouds
a net uncast, leaves all *sak ksak ksak*, only
in rain do they obstruct. The confusing
thing is both what the stranger said
and why. Admiring the arms
of a woman who'd helped reinvert
my umbrella, I noticed late. Water
between us, what made me
not hear, though I'm almost sure
I did. I don't remember the face, how
long before my shoes felt dry.