

GABRIELLE MYERS

Early Fall's Failed Elegy

Disproportion:
Her self taken by herself
to the remnant carpet's threads,
Remington rifle at her mud-winged boots,

while the Christmas lima vines
flourished, complicated the string trellises
we spent an afternoon tying.
The pods we pulled
deflated, barren.

Sparse rain was liquid for the watermelon.
Charcoal orange in the sky,
a peel burned for the tomatoes' negroni.

She wasn't the land, after.
Now, the Sacramento Valley
is the white siding of rushed housing,
crushed tomatoes on highway shoulders,
preschool soccer games in mowed-down plum orchards.
The sun, dry gold-straw,
turns into sugar pie pumpkin and delicata squash.

In memory, her sorrow
shadowed by a tooth-full smile
over eggplant bells, her lips and cheeks
browning tough,
loosening from her mind:
a heavy fruit's skin
separating from seed.

Gabrielle Myers is an Associate Professor of English at San Joaquin Delta College, writer, and chef living in the Sacramento Valley of California. Gabrielle's memoir, *Hive-Mind*, which details her time on an organic farm, is published by Lisa Hagan Books and available on Amazon. Access links to her poems, essays, articles, interviews, and seasonal recipe blog through her website: www.gabriellemyers.com

ROBYNN SMITH

Song of the Mud, 2016
Solarplate etching with Chine-collé, 16 x11 in



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