Chinks in the Armor

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The Chinese Exclusion Act, formally the Immigration Act of 1882, was the first and only major federal legislation to explicitly suspend immigration for a specific nationality.

distilled mahonias arraign
bespoken flesh—delineating
frontiers: id est
the earthen quilt
that blankets the roof
of my grandfather’s mouth
as he gambols through jade levees—
my grandma in the distance,
illumined by moonstruck love;
That which marks our unifying pursuit—
the maw where all blood rivers
inevitably converge—blindness obscured by
ancient shadows, there, we envision family.
envision unburnished tables still splintering—
and jars of pickled shishitos nestled
close—platonic throngs along
slanted sills,
projecting slivered kaleidoscopes
fanned across the shedding walls.
envision bones—good bones—holding them up.
and then tell them they aren’t worth
faces of their own.
his knees:
envisioned red—
threadbare—
scrapes
—scented with crumpled peonies;
render us specters at will. neither outside
nor
inside, but the limbo
between—meaning: remain—
unfazed, in the face of being
unfaced.