

### **an ode to ceas three-ninety**

packaged between spewed prep school sewage  
and wistful, radioactive droplets  
of sweet sea and swarming gods,  
horrors come to life and caress me tightly.

you and your blood-stained fingers  
sweep across decades-old books tinted yellow,  
the commodification of time, emotion, and rage.  
your love is near death, you whisper.

my ears buzz with the clanging of pachinko parlors  
and office-engulfing earthquakes and blank-faced babies  
born with crimped lips and bacterial brains,  
soiled waters embracing them inside.

you whisper your pains in my ears and in my mind,  
obento boxes packed with heavy hands having  
strangled harrowing husbands, stuck in the threshold,  
crawling up beaches with blood on stiff, thin thighs.

where is a home, you ask, what is a home?  
your tears build the sea, but you cannot swim.  
decaying brains float like seaweed and corals,  
refugeeism in the ordinary, in the house brimming with ache.

I feel my breath against the back of my hands, and I feel yours.  
rock me gently as the polluted tide comes in,  
as murder breaks bone and blood, as we strand ourselves  
in the midst of salvation, sorrow, and aspiration.

with martyred eyes spread wide open,  
fingers feeling for the base of the scalpel,  
will you let me hold you like the bear-god  
as we swallow up the radioactive yesteryears?

## Welcome to Writing Circle's Reading Period Reading!

This is an informal chance for people to share and celebrate writing that they've produced. There will be poetry and prose of all varieties. Thank you for a great semester of Writing Circle, and we're looking forward to even more in the future!

### Schedule

Christopher Chiu (he/him)— Svetlana's Awakening, fantasy fiction

Anya Le (she/they)— Crop Circles, realistic fiction

Julia Gardner (she/her)— April Showers, fiction

Justin Rosenthal (he/him)— "shadow eater" and "the big crunch theory," poetry

Abby Frankenberg (she/her)— Fever Dream, fiction

Mason Rounds (he/him)— You Just Can't Trust The Birds Anymore, post-apocalyptic

Nate Wheeler (he/him)— Wayfaring Dust, realistic fiction

Jeremy Meehan (he/him)— Space Woman, science-fiction poetry

Malaika Fernandes (she/her)— Mulaqat, realistic fiction stageplay

Jaydie Halperin (she/her)— Excerpt from thesis, historical fiction

Pamela Shattock (she/her)— Muffin Madness, comedic screenplay

After the readings are finished, please feel free to stay and chat if you'd like. And from everyone in Writing Circle, thank you for coming!

Special thanks to:

Justin Rosenthal, Professor Stephanie Weiner, and everyone at Shapiro Center for Writing for welcoming us into your space once again— we're excited to be able to work with you more!

Christopher Chiu, Amanda Ding, Abby Frankenberg, Julia Gardner, Svend Phillips, Justin Rosenthal, Jaydie Halperin, and Mason Rounds for offering your time & care in facilitating Writing Circles— none of this would have happened without great facilitators!

Malaika and everyone else in the Writing Circle Admin, for making this event happen— here's looking forward to many more ahead!