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Evolving White

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Evolving White // Astoria Aviles

Strands waltzing under water,
I held my breath for decades:
Surgery stifling my lungs with chalk
I cough up clouds and calluses.

I am evolving into whiteness,
unearthing broken filaments of time beneath my scalp:
manuscripts and music,
nouns and neurons—finite like sand.

My eyes are glass beneath the microscope:
I blink in Braille,
In language tied to friction tied to loss.

I am evolving into whiteness:
my memory bleaching into nothingness, my
anatomy steeping.

I think only of cremation:
that burnt-umber painting of bones and sinews,
my epilogue to cream-colored bruises,
my escape from embodied ash.