

Chen Chen

Little Song

I am sitting in the grass I hear a microwave from the house Someone setting the time
Then changing their mind Little song of beeps The bees come to visit the hydrangeas
They're a loopy lopsided equation that actually works out that is the foundation
of the universe The bees decide to visit me I try to stay still so they can visit properly
& am returned to my body the squishy cantaloupe depths the memory of when I was a kid
the days of excitement over the phrase *centrifugal force* I think it was my #1 phrase
for a week I started telling people that was where babies came from My father the scholar
shook his head & explained capital N- Nature yin & yang *You must have opposites* he said
For years I thought gay people didn't exist in China But then I went to a nightclub
in Shanghai small & literally underground but packed with gorgeous men Chinese men
a winding techno garden of them Only women my straight friend & the hardworking old lady
at coat check I danced till I got sweaty then too sweaty In the rest area a man passed by
& pinched my nipple through my now see-through shirt I saw how China could be
many things & Nature could & me singing in the grass little songs about gravity

vulpes vulpes

will you accompany me to the apocalypse tonight
should there happen to be one?
the joycean molly of your yes.
the rejoicing philharmonic of my philtrum.
the giacometti of our primal necessity.
the verb phrase “to partake in” which is the fulcrum
of our frolic. the seismic paradigm shift
& simian grin of it. the vulpes
vulpes of it. the geez louise, joan of arc, &-
cetera &cetera of it. the dao, hotdog, jay
dios mío! of it. the unmooring. the 精. the great
vulcan clarity & woolfian clarissa. the donkey
piñata over the abyss over the angelic
xmas ornament placed just so.

Chen Chen's work has appeared/is forthcoming in *Poetry*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *DIAGRAM*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *[PANK]*, *Ghost Proposal*, *Bat City Review*, *Nepantla: A Journal Dedicated to Queer Poets of Color*, among other places. He is a Kundiman Fellow, a University Fellow in Syracuse University's MFA program, and a Poetry Editor for *Salt Hill*. Visit him at chenchenwrites.com.