Museum Archipelago

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(After Recollection 2, by Sukjin Choi)

Over Java, volcanic Mount Merapi
salts the sky

while I stand glazed
in stasis
like a shade of paint

Blue, maybe, scooped
from the lucent moment

when you turned
to look

Eyes open,

each cornea’s a pore the light
pours through

until the image pools
in your attention
and you’re
here

(but already prairie sunlight
has forgotten us—your mother’s
 teacups on the shelf, something
she might have meant to say)

Pollen in pondwater, ash along the distant surf

Life writhes,
inscribes our epitaphs in sediment

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Photo of *Recollection* 2 courtesy of the artist, Sukjin Choi