



my unstable image

image s

from

Junebat



The mind is where it always has been:  
trying to make home in a white room  
in an unsalvageable habitat.

the room's one bare interrogator's bulb

The articulating fan shakes her head at me  
but she cannot know how hard it is to be alive  
sweating and losing every cent you never earned.





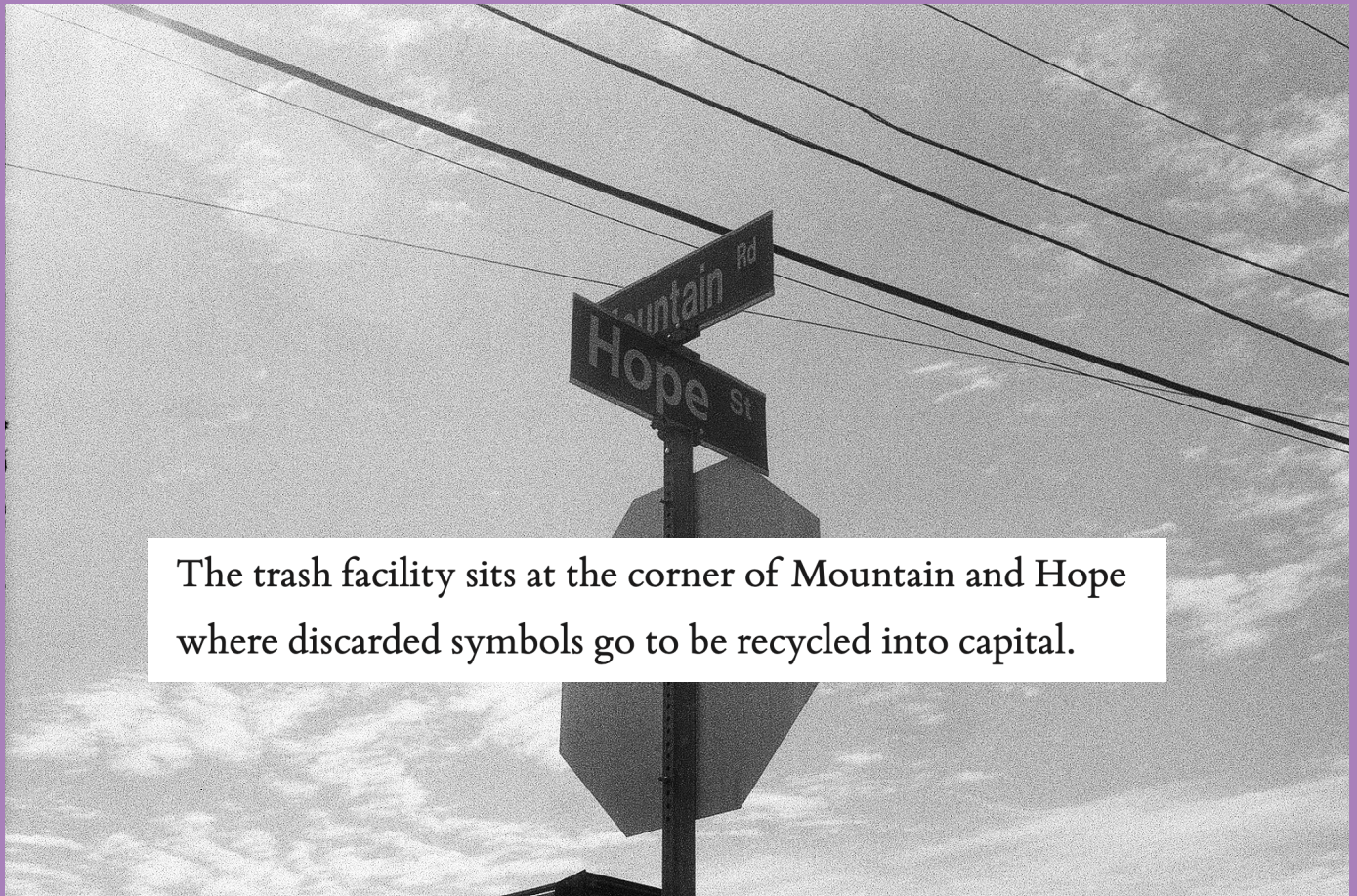
I learn another style of butterfly to fold, with rounder wings, and watch the walls swarm out in colour

A flock of paper butterflies and bats and hearts is smeared on the wall with it.



This is the sort of room where a question can thrive and suffocate in the same measure of time.





The trash facility sits at the corner of Mountain and Hope where discarded symbols go to be recycled into capital.

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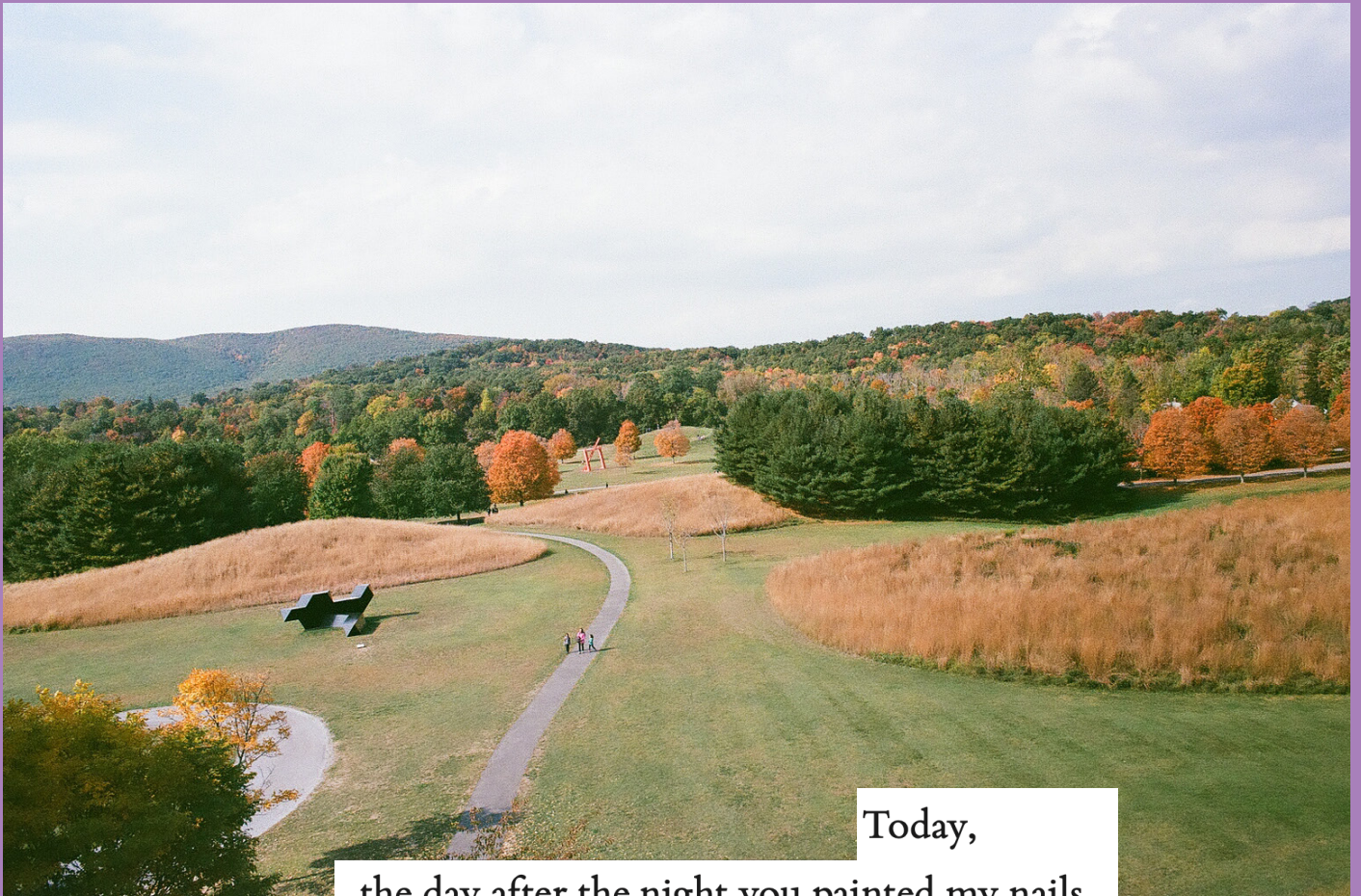


I found their ugly pink cactus head on the fringes of my commute through Hoboken last September: spiny, beside another colourful sibling, and for sale.

Hale-Bopp

Yellow rayon sheets, made in China, never washed, huddle in the corner of a twin-sized bed where the body often lies down to haunt itself.





Today,  
the day after the night you painted my nails  
plum in Jersey, we drove up the valley  
to see maple-dappled fall overflowing  
the hills. Storm King.





On the bridge we watched a tugboat push  
an empty barge beneath us. At least,  
you watched the barge and I watched you.

“Puh-kipsee,” I whispered, your hair running  
with the wind, and you laughed.







Now, we're on the porch again.

The slow gosling hasn't shown up, but below us  
the five others are back, pecking at remorseless earth.





Soon, I'll leave  
this twin bed whimpering on the side of the street  
for the garbage men to take or leave. I'll never  
know.



Quotes from poems from *Junebat* by John Elizabeth Stintzi, published by House of Anansi (2020). Images copyright John Elizabeth Stintzi & Melanie Pierce (pg 8).

Poems quoted (in order):

Pg 2: “Still Life, Interrogation Room,” “Still Life, Interrogation Room,” “Origa/me”

Pg 3: “Origa/me,” “Still Life, Interrogation Room,” “Still Life, Interrogation Room”

Pg 4: “Junebat on the Dump,” “Hale-Bopp,” “Hale-Bopp,” “Still Life, Interrogation Room”

Pg 5: “The Night After Flights of Cider”

Pg 6: “The Night After Flights of Cider”

Pg 7: “Slow Gosling”

Pg 8: “Cardinal in Rain”

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