A Figure Seen from Behind

Xu Gang
Cigarette Butts

My cigarette butts are my forest,
I’m piously addicted to the drug;
Without a smoke I get too lonely,
I love the fire, love the bright glow.
On a gloomy sunless day,
The fire in me never dies out.
That’s how my imagination takes wing.
Nobody escapes the day of burial.
I want to be buried here in my forest.

A Figure Seen from Behind

I can see only your back
As you stand facing the mountain.
Watching your excitement before that height,
I would prefer to hide my name in a cave
Like an outlaw taking to the greenwood.
Sometimes climbing is a way of sinking,
And sinking a way of climbing.
The ancient cave is prolonged, and deep,
I’m setting out from the eyes toward the mind.