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Thoracic Ode

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HEATHER TRESELER

Thoracic Ode

For S.

Portal: a skin-flap window cut
into collared bone. Wren's rib
pecked haggard by the crow

of a surgeon's hand. Blueward,
the tube threads arterial gulleys
to ventricles' dystolic fist

smuggling drugs under fenced
bones, a girlhood's unstoried
breasts. Under the weasels' nest

of feedlot spirochetes: bacterium
doubling in the dusk between
Hellespont and Hebrides, lymph

and lung. Among the vitreous
humors, islets of Langerhans,
where stills the breath's élan.

On a gray screen the dirigible
heart floats, sobersides, little
balloon fish puffed for fight.