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Butterfly Moth

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Butterfly Moth

Micah Beukelman

Wiggle, inch,

wiggle, inch

second grade science project—olive slime, maggoty mealy worm

plastic lid, plastic cup

butterfly to be

munching milkweed leaves

catatonic silkworm cocoon,

little larva cup emptied to the butterfly exhibit

a princess canopy bed, enclosed net mesh

the chrysalis breaks apart

orange and black and white and dusky mustard dust wings

left, right

left, right

high school art project— silver see-saw scalpel, rolled gauze and tape

sheet of paper, tangle of pens

butterfly to be

purple ink drawn by coiled hair

keep it alive, keep it beating, breathing

razor ripped wings, stream of luscious blood

lands and rests on the light knife and

falls.

skin breaks apart, spreads wildfire
warm pain welcomes an old acquaintance
a moth to flame, voluntary subjugation

fleshy white and wine red and rusty brown blood

not butterfly—

but moth