

Vaquero

by: Cameron Monteith

The first cowboys
were skinned brown and black

John Wayne
his silver-screen drawl
powdered powder keg
ten-gallon gait
are now
what it means to be 'cowboy'
the salt of the earth

salt
is the death of a farmer's crops
fashioned in bitter white flakes
is used to store the steak
that roasts on a barbecue pit
when it should've decayed

my people were 'cowboys'
cow milk drunk, their flesh chafing fire
dirty and tired, curing America's hunger
on European horses tamed

cattle drive ashes with the night closing in
an apparition always heading west

sharing with each other
the intimacy of the dark
and it's myths

