

## Church of Invocation

*Wayde Compton*

The life expectancy of mulatto males born in Canada in the nineteen-seventies

The German international student's transhumeral arm amputation makes him know what it's like to be black, he says

One poem for every document identifying me by race during the course of my life

Seeing ships in the Strait of Georgia wears a groove in your cerebral cortex

A camera dolly through a video for a black metal cover of a Smokey Robinson composition

When the tsunami comes, downtown Vancouver will become an island, a secession, a micronation, a spacecraft

Anti-racist carbon offset

In the nineteen-nineties, Khurshid Cobain made melodic punk, but when he killed himself, no frisson, just burdened embarrassment

The blaze of one hundred thousand searchlights looking for drowning migrants in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Everything I do, I do it for El Hedi ben Salem m'Barek Mohammed Mustafa

The tour guide's reference to her secret society as we eat the national scenery

A tunnel runs beneath the sidewalk, beneath the periwinkle glass bricks, beneath a where-are-you-from

The Soviet Union of my dreams and an ICBM of mixed DNA

My eyes change colour when I see paper boats made out of plastic actually

The gold crowns on my molars; the yellow sunset; transcendent particulates



Aaron Siskind

*Church Interior Harlem, 1938*

gelatin silver print, 22 x 30.6 cm