

Motherships

Oki Sogumi

I. Samsung

Please recognize my mother
She is embedded on a bankrupt
Hanjin container ship with a
limb or finger on the emergency brake

She won't stop calling me
& I won't pick up

But if you care to vocalize progression
as an ember falls from the sky
onto the embargoed mothership
w/ loads of alien cargo just sitting there

Please recognize her in a cloud
Rushing empty and huge toward the shore
in her flaming opacity
An emergent genealogy that has strands perking

"It's a fucking disaster"
someone mutters to no one
"It's so hot: the new normal"
someone else says with bright sarcasm

"It's all collapsing" another
says behind me & when I turn
around, it is my mother &
her arms are full of phones

II. Hyundai

Wrapped in her shell I thought this is what love is
When misrecognition sticks we call it that
& it is true that capital birthed me too
Glued to a hull speeding off beetle-like
On the Hyundai Merchant Marine (HMM) website,
for “Awareness of Global Citizenship”
a Korean girl holds up an empty frame
for “Customer Appreciation”
a white family with two children on the beach
the website copy reads:
“The symbolic meaning of oceans is sometimes a challenge”

The longer I tried to avoid the apocalyptic
the harder it came
skipping work stoppage and flagging sales
into full oceanic duress

III. Korean Air

She loves the seaweed soup they serve
on board, for an airplane, she qualifies
She frowns at the k-drama playing
“so unrealistic, that they end up with three children.”
“P!hen-ts-see”

The big P and little h of Fantasy
pops from her, w/ joyful disdain
She has three children
She pours oil from a packet into the
swirl of hot water