

Eleni Stecopoulos / from *ARMIES OF COMPASSION*

Enduring freedom futures
last a long time

Roman society staved off age with shit facials

aesthetics can be reduced to pleasing
when a skin lampshade stands for design

come out Mr. President
stand before your victory fleur-de-lys
perfume's base was always gasoline

understand our deepest
cellular consumptive scab
embarcaded in the war
chest walling off
our lungs a white field where
players swoop down on a chicken
like crows pretending to be chickens

There has never been theater in America

impersonating the void we no longer
play in the dark

we drain the ocean

thematizing the real as
scab cargo
no one will unload

there has never been theater
only suppliant women buried child

evacuating with bodies
the plausible deniability of law