CHRISTINA CHIN/ UCHECHUKWU ONYEDIKAM

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LMCI

roofless belonging a room to each blue bird of paradise *water and seeds at the bird feeder*

contaminated dark fumes up above a scarcity of breath *the sirens and speakers signal evacuation*

families trapped on the rooftop others run to higher grounds the heavy flood of strangled waterways

the motive of sunshine & rain a smiley girl flickers and blurs on the billboard

slow world under its weight a tortoise *tumbles and flips back in the pond*

village meeting a candlelight ritual ... *the slaughter* of two sacrificial goats

the dove soar with purity inside her bound to happen black coffee on the white apron

clouds of pink in the flyway flamingo on a run-up wing salute

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a slant of the coconut tree if i could reach higher *a sweet maiden beckons from the top*

hunter's moon a gorilla escapes a lone cricket hymns in the white and dark gray barn

ripened rice field autumn moon stands in guard a ragged scarecrow watches the farmer separates grain from straw

harvest moon out of the blue sky two crickets serenade *the aroma of new saké*

the village boy: learning to talk grandma bites her tongue *when he mimics her tone on his name*

vertically challenged the curve goes round and round the flying trapeze somersaults

separating husks from rice grounded how a seed grows to become tree

mamba muntu the water spirit next to the river she appears alone wearing a fish

a traveller of many paths yet not one *beauty to match the daughter of Aphrodite*

blue into the deep big bottom of history *an ancient city submerged in the tigris*

old vinyl crackles and pops a warm feeling jazz music playing intimacy

graveyard shift approaching me the cemetery digger with the victim's eyes

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sundown the linen shirt perfect for summer to fit into old shoes dusk on my feet

after the fresh mown grass home by the lake in company two goats

fifteenth night of the seventh lunar moon she's been loitering ... the ghost i recognize in the graveyard

still unread messages on the screen... all night rain gently pounding the roof of the break heart hotel

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