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**A Sample of the Poets’ Work**

from *Descanso*

I trade my Giants jersey
for a crown of thorns in Tecoripa
driving against silence, I resist ideas
about solitude and martyrdom
sing instead of the radio       Tangled
crown forever in my head but never upon it
rivulets of sweat, copycat sangre
it can’t be long now

I stop
by the road
dim green lobes of gingko fall
like my body, no business in the desert
Not a tree in sight, they flutter and cling
I stand in a storm of butterflies
until the front passes

—Matthew M. Monte

*Mother of Pearl*

There was a jeweler from the state of Chu,
Who in order to sell a beautiful strand of pearls,
Made a box from the fine-grained wood of magnolia.  
Decorated with rose-colored gems, its borders were lined

With green jadeite, and the interior scented with the perfume
Of osmanthus blossoms. The craftsmanship was so exquisite

That a mandarin who held the box in his hands
Overlooked the pearls.

—Joseph Zaccardi