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## Land of Plenty

Timothy Liu

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## Liu: Land of Plenty

### LAND OF PLENTY

Timothy Liu

To have flown  
halfway round the world for this, the two of us  
listening

to the same bells striking the hours  
as I made my way from hotel to his flat,  
up five flights

to the door he'd always leave  
ajar—three rooms overlooking a square  
that remained

vacant as we stood there  
on his balcony where I could still make out  
the corner of his bed,

the tea steaming  
in a cup on his crooked kitchen table,  
the lid already off

the honey jar—  
Nor did we need to exchange a word,  
cracked porcelain

warm against my palms,  
the soothing breakfast tea unlocking  
my nostrils and throat

as I paced from shelves  
to writing desk where he had tacked a print  
of Breughel's *Land of Plenty*

against the wall—  
three peasants passed out under a table  
loaded down

with so much bounty all around  
I couldn't tell if they were napping, drunk,  
or simply dead.

Had he seen it in Munich?  
he who was already broke, his phone  
to be shut off  
in less than a week, the honey  
and tea about as much as he could afford—  
the two of us at his table,  
saying nothing.