

FOURTEEN POUNDS

AIMÉE BAKER

*(unidentified woman discovered September 30, 1952 near
Black Hawk, Colorado)*

My soul weighs
no more than twenty-one grams,
a weight that forgets
how it feels to touch one lip
against another,

and the burden of the body
it leaves behind.

And what remains:
the heaviness of blood
spread thin across the gulch.
Dark hair matted
on a stretch of skin.

Charcoaled bone wedged
deep in the scorched earth.
The gasoline burn of the felled
log. The morning dew
sequined on a web
of gristle.

Did you know a magpie's heart
weighs 9.3 ounces?
But what does that say
about how its voice sounds
calling across the divide.