

CHEUNG Siu Por

Refused Entry to Peking University

even the wind has been arrested by the rifles
inside the gates, massed lotuses no longer sway, faces turned skyward
a single seed-pod is raised aloft:
a silent fist

September 1992

Translated by Simon Patton

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CHEUNG Siu Por

Ears Pressed to Echo Wall

I overhear a clutch of confined voices
the repetition of five thousand years
a lime-flaked road
described
as the world's most enduring miracle

the voices really are overgrown with moss
I clap my hands
and hear only fitful echoes

September 1992

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CHEUNG Siu Por

Tedium

close doors and windows
the thunderstorm—outside
the dampness—outside
your features now—outside

but neither beer nor peanuts are resistant to wear
tedium, once grown, like rat's teeth
hunts out something hard from the past
on which to gnaw away the hours

17 July 1995

Translated by Simon Patton