

Shin Yu Pai

**Meat Stone**

in the raw material  
of inorganic stone

the artist saw not  
mineral but animal

strata defined by bands  
of color, striated quartz

a lattice of atoms in  
agate, or *chalcedon*

a fantasy of corpulence –  
not the actual thing itself

but the body's carcass  
carved & stewed

in its own juices

the Greek bachelor  
Pygmalion longed

to breathe being into  
modeled marble

no small commitment  
to life

nourishing words w/  
marrow & meat,

stone skinned alive,  
flesh of fatty pork

feeds gray matter  
acts upon the heart

served under glass  
letter for letter each

gnaw & chew of language  
even the herbivore imagines