Cobalt Poets Series # 607 ~ February 13, 2024

Cruise City Jackson Lake

Garland Thompson

Cruise City Jackson Lake struts through
the deep red dark windy dirt roads
swirling with the dust of regret.

All around him lay little pebbles
filled with the Blues of Blind Willie Johnson,
a channeler of people's pain and sorrow,
an alchemist of emotions.

Snap Crackle Pop!
Blind Willie transformed your hurtin' heart
so you could go on livin'.

Cruise City Jackson Lake rides rails
layin' his tail down in a box car,
stars visible through the open metal door.
Who says life is a bore?

Cool breeze blowin'
as North becomes
the direction of choice.

Garland has traveled extensively through his writing, covering both coasts of the United States, his words reaching countries such as the UK, Singapore, and Malaysia. In addition to his writing, Garland has produced poetry shows in Los Angeles and Austin, TX, and for nearly two decades hosted the RUBBER CHICKEN POETRY SLAM & OPEN MIC in Monterey, CA until the pandemic forced its cancellation. His work has been published in a variety of mediums over the years, including anthologies, virtual magazines, and newspapers. Most recently, Garland's writing has been featured in "NYC FROM THE INSIDE-THROUGH THE EYES OF THE POETS WHO LIVE HERE (Bluelight Press 2022)." Outside of his writing, Garland serves as Executive Artistic Director of the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop Foundation, an Obie Award-winning non-profit theater organization rooted in the Black experience, dedicated to the development of new plays.