soup joumou

i confess / i cooked a man / sized pot of pasta,

beef, & veggies—& called it reclamation—

despite my mother's tongue / shriveling like a snail

in the salt / of my English / i wanted to swim

against the current / of whitewash / for once

or at least learn how to / summon the dead

i cleaved a kabocha / how i imagine a machete might

a French slave / master's neck / & scooped out the seeds

before pureeing its body / later, i stirred the contents

into a brown broth / & watched / the yellow swirl

& bubble / like fireworks / entering the sky

of an hour / leading to a year / yet to be named.

Mckendy Fils-Aimé

Mckendy Fils-Aimé is a New England based Haitian American poet, organizer, and teaching artist. He is the author of sipèstisyon (YesYes Books, 2026) and has received fellowships from Callaloo, Cave Canem, The Watering Hole, CantoMundo, and Periplus. Over the span of nearly two decades, Mckendy has represented New England in several regional and national poetry slams, performing on numerous semifinal and final stages. Mckendy's work has been featured or is forthcoming in *Best New Poets, Adroit, Muzzle, American Literary Review, the Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day series*, and elsewhere.

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