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ISSN 2278-9529
Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
www.galaxyimrj.com

Drill Sings

Xia Fang

the sun takes back golden nimbleness
in a room of the library, upstairs wielded
a steel drill piercing, pain in skull

a shoal of pupils shuffles brassily
among the shelves and rooms
of a grand atrium
behind the tour guide
muttering, jittery, lit
quickly gone to embers

shape of an eye the ceiling above
intricately decorated, as if a soul says
'zeal for your house will consume me'

he remembers that it is written
the rippled jade with matte finish
like heads of deep diving fish
tails lift up, wriggle

I look out and see a magpie's
slow flight brings the bough to purple

Author's Bio:

Xia Fang, born in 1986, is a bilingual poet and translator. She has published two collections of translated poems and her own poetry has appeared in *The Postcolonial Text* and *Canada Quarterly* and is forthcoming in *Marathon Literary Review*. *A View of the Sky Tunnel* (ASM) is her first book of poetry. Her early written work was influenced by new life experiences, including the move to a new environment, in Macao. Xia completed her MA in translation studies in 2013. Now she is working towards her PhD degree in literary studies at the University of Macau.