

CHIA-LUN CHANG 張家綸

The Accent Floats

Please bear with me

I'm sorry that you're forced to be surrounded by my voice

My lips aren't placed where they're supposed to be

5 The R sound eases its way out

Standing here, I annoy you, drag you, punish you

I'm sorry

I was once your parentwho suffered escaping to the wonderland disorder

once your uncle-in-law who died alone in an open closet

once your pet who whined at a cryptic front door

twice your wallpaperthat peeled away through a silent,

early morning. Your mailbox has received thousands of correctly spelled and typed news from the world

sometimes I was your blackboard

20 where a teeth-straightening system grew

once I was you who sucked your mom's nipples



$2\,/$ Chia-Lun Chang $\bullet\,$ The Accent Floats

I'm sorry—I'm becoming a dishwasher right away

if one day you recall on a whim

25 please remember, we've only interacted in script

my tongue mixed too many oceans maybe it will drown next time

my tonsil swallowed a bag of stones on the muddy path

always flowing between terminalsmy accent never takes off since

my throat has not applied for a passport it is too thick to pass through your years

2021/2022

