

TANYA MUZUMDAR

## *Pulmonary*

July noon over  
a sonar hotspot,

a steelhead and I,  
we haggle the leaded line:

Cold tooth water  
bungles her skull,

my belly brass-knuckled  
by the pole.

Then, her tonnage  
from force to light.

My inner fingers  
up her gills,

up to the knuckle.  
Thumbs hold her by her lungs.

Hosed and cut  
to cubed humidity on stainless,

roe extracted to salt  
the mouths of the next.

Tanya Muzumdar lives in northern Michigan, where she is a freelance magazine editor and a travel writer for *Midwest Living*. She is also an MFA candidate in poetry at Pacific University. Her poetry appears in *Dunes Review* and is forthcoming in *Prairie Schooner*.