

Diane Judge resides in Durham, North Carolina. She is a member of the Carolina African American Writers' Collective. Her poem "Because of Emmett Till" was published in *Black Magnolias Literary Journal*, and her poem "Faith (for Linwood Earl)" appeared in *34thParallel*.

Aftermath

they wait
on hands and knees
in fetal positions
or flat on their backs
as the earth echoes
with hunger pangs
even after devouring thousands

they mourn
as bodies around them
ripen in the Haitian heat
without cool vaults
or consecration

awakening machinery
rumbles stirs ash
to coat their hair their bodies
with one more layer of gray and grit
then the machines power down
so that all can hear
voices atop a tower of Babel
erected by earth's upheaval
Creole French English
calling the buried to exhumation

survivors lifted into light
spread their arms wide
mouth prayers or songs
as rescuers carry them away
to the rest of their lives