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Freckles

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Freckles

by José Angel Araguz

Her skin is dappled with brown spots
like flour tortillas singed over flame,

the flat of a pan like a palm
fevered and eager to touch,

or so it seems to him, watching her,
wanting to take credit

for whatever fire
turned her skin

to geography,
whatever flame licked to life

those spots that resonate:
brown color of the earth,

brown color of his skin—but no,
if anything, he falls apart

as clouds do,
drop by drop,

the brown of his skin
a rain caught now

on her shoulders,
her arms, her face.