

An Abridged History of Photography
By Gregory JM Kasunich

Burnt honey, bitter sweet
Lithographs haze and bloom
Leather soul browned butter
Memories before memory

Your mother, postpartum, her cigarette, you naked and bathing. Dying flowers on the counter.

Then, coffee & cream daguerreotypes
Stately, still, preservations
Iodine and bromine conspire
to make a more precious silver

Your father, shirtless in his chair, red faced, smiling,, the TV is off. Feet stuffed in worn slippers.

Kodachrome confections emerge
strum and splendor suspended
betwixt cellophane and linen
shelved and stacked and well-thumbed

Your sister and brother, New Hampshire, the man in the mountain, soft, binoculars, squinting. Old shoes.

To wafer-thin rolled paper
Abandon frozen Polaroid poses
Almost Instant palmed nostalgia alchemy
Pinned in pressed particle board

Your grandmother, surprised, glasses akimbo, half opened Christmas gift. Floral plastic-wrapped couch.

And now, brittle binary clouds of content
Ephemeral pocket pixels – innumerable
Immaterial minutia everywhere and nowhere
All at once serving time

Your wife, eyes closed hand over mouth, a diner, somewhere. Maroon dress and half eaten sashimi.