

## DEHUMANIZATION

Simone Hunter – Hobson

Queens and Kings'  
harmonies dragged  
out of their homes,  
knives to their throats –  
thrown on a ship's  
lower arc,  
their bodies stacked  
like sardines.

Hear Solomon's  
silent thoughts of  
wicked cursing,  
and hissing.  
His wife pleading against the  
bare deck, left cheek  
iron-branded.  
See Eliza's baby girl snatched  
from her mother's bosom.  
12 years old: carrying a mulatto  
fetus, child of a master.

“Roll Jordan, Roll!”  
the lingering weeps of the  
gospel  
throughout the labor plantation.  
Brutal sun  
beats black skin.  
Feel the thick leather whip  
lashing  
across Solomon's back – broken  
spine, broken pride.

200 years later...  
Protesters still humming the  
gospel “Roll Jordan, Roll!”  
While police bullets continue  
to beat  
against my father's skin.  
The school-to-prison pipeline, the  
new Jim Crow laws  
still transporting  
my people to

