

(SUB)DIVISION

poem by Christine Crockett



Image: "Aerial II" by Scott Wiggerman. "(Sub)Division" was written by Christine Crockett for *Rattle's* Ekphrastic Challenge, November 2023, and selected as the Editor's Choice.

On a blueprint stark
as a lunar footprint,

my father signed up
for its perfect math:

plots of earth wedged
into open arcs,

arenas unmarred
yet by tragedy.

Even then, I moved
in exponentials. Things

blurred or bent in me,
wrecked the lines,

found romance in spandrels
where misfits played,

the spillover edges
of trapped space.

Broken is better,
inevitable as cells

that spilt, subdivide,
thin until frayed

tissues collapse
and seepage sets in,

the way children leave
on well-lit roads

out of the still dance
of perfect math,

those centers that
will not hold.