

Taurus Season

by Óscar Díaz

Fish fossils,
thorns, branches and grass—
a catfish skull.
The low res photo of the paleontologists,
white shirts,
khaki pants,
blurring against the sediment wall—
the flash of the camera.
Eunice Echeverria,
Director of the Museum of Natural History
wants to know
were the fossilized fish like the deer
and alligator?
did they manage to adapt and
survive all the shifts
in this region of
Paraíso, Chalatenango?
My dad visits twice this month,
reads the news on his
tablet again at breakfast,
UNESCO donated ventiladores arrive
in San Salvador.
An employee holds a cup up,
an ironic toast in a flooded hallway,
The 1970's,
'80s and '90s are soaked
The Biblioteca Nacional
newspaper collection—
from the surrounding market
garbage piles up,
clogs the culvert, overflows during rain—
Corina steps back to survey the drying rows
rushes closer—
mushrooms.