

**Dutch Angles**  
**by Theo Konrad Auer**

The rods are rotting within the tower  
that holds the span  
of the new Bay Bridge together  
says the engineer,  
Nobody wants to hear bad news  
Especially when the summer weather is so distracting  
and now you can ride a bike halfway  
to San Francisco from Oakland  
Never mind that is the last place you'd ever want  
to be is Treasure Island in an earthquake

The ghosts cast shade you can catch if you're open to it

Your treehouse was cut down last month  
and you put the finishing touches on the new one today  
you say it's bigger and better  
Your neighbor says hi from her sedan living room  
She's an adjunct professor at the community college  
a few minutes away

I want my panic room to be decorated in the mid century modern style  
says the transplant in denial,

SHE/HE/THEY work in social justice and are replacing  
those in mid flight: the artists, the writers, the lower middle classes  
(mostly people of color replaced mostly by white folk)  
the people who never thought about moving or losing their home and history

Our mayor plays nice with developers and radicals  
starting up socially responsible businesses  
But the only material return are the Bart Transit Villages  
she has had little hand in,  
Some are more affordable than not, others marginally so,  
Those are the ones nearest the nicer, hipper parts of town.  
One developer, once poor in a past life invited a formerly homeless couple to live in his Piedmont home,  
the neighbors called the cops not expecting black people to be waiting for the bus on the regular in their hood

The shell casings were outnumbered by spent fireworks and then replaced by American Spirit cigarette butts

A new trend is spinning up,  
restaurants that specialize in food that tastes better a day later, reheated

The earthquake is coming  
fall weather they say  
welcomes it  
federal aid won't be sufficient  
and the tech titans volunteered to help

Every bridge  
every freeway and highway  
and even halfway houses were renamed after their like  
The process already began  
With the Benioff Children's Hospital and Zuckerberg General Hospital,

If it were up to me I'd rename the Bay Bridge "The Empathy Gap Bridge"