

# Westminster, CA

by Cindy Lim

Welcome to “Little Saigon”  
“The City of Progress”  
where people are nostalgic  
for the yellowed nail salon signs,  
brown sugar tapioca balls, and hangover *pho*.  
Here, the orange trees fade into *banh mi* shops  
and so does our memory (but it’s okay!)  
We save space in your head by forgetting  
the world outside of fresh baguettes,  
the crunch of plastic over the couches,  
the crack of Tet Festival fireworks.  
*Will knowing the world get you into college?*  
All hail the Asian Garden Mall  
tall in its clad armor pagoda roofs  
blinking streetlights, sardine-like parking  
and night market stinky-tofu discounts.  
Every bad driver is at your convenience,  
packing every Honda Civic into traffic  
preventing them from getting to Costco  
to buy every pillow in bulk, and cheap gas  
for the long road to anywhere else.  
But why leave? Save money  
by keeping your children inside—  
prevent them from seeing the wars  
they should feel guilty for.  
Blame cultures they don’t talk to  
for the English they must speak.  
“Together, we can build a better future”  
as long as you stay.  
The rest of the world has terrible parking anyway.