Ji Zhishui (b. 1984, Taogang, Hubei) graduated from the Hubei Technical School and at nineteen went to work in Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Jiangxi, among other places. She has worked as a dishwasher and weaver, and worked for three years in a battery factory in Guangdong. She now works in a plastics factory in Zhejiang as an assembly line statistician. Her poetry collection is called *Self-Portrait*.

Bleeding Fingers

We use them to grasp our bread to grasp the light that leaks from the cracks in our heads even to grasp thorny problems the dripping blood is the life we face if there's any hope, it's that the warmth lost along the assembly line will light up the stars as it scatters and the screams that burst from the chest can find an echo in the roaring workshop let it tremble there we are washing ourselves spotless in tears