

## **Young Couple, Ohio State Fair**

by Felix Jung

Two lovers start to kiss beside a row  
of roller coasters, creaky tilt-a-whirls  
and games of chance, ignoring all the noise  
surrounding them. It's August, and they taste  
the afternoon: her lips made salty from  
a burger, his turned sweeter by a piece  
of cotton candy. Each one tries to hold

their breath as tightly as they try to hold  
the other, fingers slick with sugared grease.  
Behind them, metal gears begin to thrum  
as nervous children close their eyes and place  
their palms along the bars, young girls and boys  
sent screaming, spinning, locked inside a world  
designed to break, to force the letting go.



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