

NYCTOPHOBIA

Frank X Walker

At first, they came to satisfy
a sense of adventure; traveling for miles
to climb the bountiful breast
growing the length of her spine

recording their discoveries in comic strips
and murder ballads; declaring mountain
culture a regional sideshow.

Now, they are back with draglines and dozers,
performing dime store mastectomies
to cure their fear of the dark
removing and discarding her tops,

peeling brown skin back, harvesting
her ovaries, silencing her loud beauty,
poisoning her underground dreams
just to turn on your lights.