

OPIUM BRIDES

Melissa Guillet

Sandboxes are great
for making pies.
Not mud pies, mind you;
there is no water.

But dust pies, wish pies,
pies that stay together
only as long as you're holding them –
like families.

*Daddy borrowed money for the farm.
Poppies are the only things
that will grow here.
They will help our family flower.*

For show, the government cuts
all the stalks, all our dreams.
We have less than pay dirt.
The dealers need to be paid.

They look at me with interest.
My father is shamed by his choice:
A debt paid with a daughter,
a fourteen year flower cut too soon.