GINA FRANCO

A Foundation Laid on Which the Wall Had Not Yet Been Built

—we were held up/we held on
    apprehended little enough—
    the parenthetical children,
the set aside children suspended in the bridgeless border,
    remember:
kept long and far: preserved
    for later
use: the father’s seed-grown garden beyond the chain-
    link fence, his pride of white roses weighing
down the white
trellis in his doorway
    arch (point of eternal return): I remember, I
    can’t remember ever
being at home: late last
night I lay awake and listened in bed to the recorded unheard
    -of
    children, wailing, playing
    on an endless loop, a taste
of perfect hell:
    world stalled
    between event and news of event: watched
world taking your tender place behind glass:
    far-fetched
world, we were told:
    there are many rooms in the father’s house: