To consider Chelsea Manning at Guangzhou Airport

1. Scoping
word docs surprise in the departure lounge
under foreign infomercials: the unrecognisable

   pixels you are – fonts align
   solvent cultures
   from cabin to smoking alcove
   the hour rebranded, air smartened, no biography necessary
   is Triskelion not a drug?

   diasporic maintenance /
   movement the music of ideology,
   try on breath:
   beginnings, nothings, dwelling
   on Chelsea’s weak chin
   & the edge on the air

2. Prostrate
doubt Europe’s crowded skies
   until further information

   tepid rapport suggests itself
   among those watching screens
   from low places,
   a sit-in
   in the name of a face / here
   it is the idea of Him that inspires
   no more

   the actuality of Her
   and me
   growing dimmer
   in the distorted glow of
   a new morning’s haze

Barnaby Smith. ‘To consider Chelsea Manning at Guangzhou airport’. 
illuminating factories in the distance
as if deleted scenes

Barnaby Smith