

STEFAN KARLSSON
poetry

MEMORY REPLACEMENT TEST

The test subject expressed a fondness
for rabbits, having never owned one
due to her mother's alleged allergies.

So we replaced her hairier memories
with bunnies. The day her grandma died
the subject now remembers kissing

a rabbit's cold nose. Her brother's accident
became a fluff puddle of head-butting bunnies.
There's no telling how many rabbit explosions

she recalls from watching the news.
But the subject went too far:
Her sixth grade dance now a bacchanal

of hopping cottontails, her first day of camp
an extended grooming session, every awkward
high school hiccup brimming with *binkies*—

ecstatic leaps, kicks, head flicks, the works.
The subject stares at us unblinking,
ears pricked up. When she licks water

from her sippy bottle, she rattles
the cage where we keep her, keeping us
up at night. It's unclear if she remembers us.