Staying to Watch the Massage and Bathing of My Granddaughter, Aged Four Months

For my granddaughter, Ela

The entire Air Force and its chariots
the airplanes in shelters
the smart bombs
the wings of attack, the engines
working or switched off,
the cockpit, a ladder leading
to it,
the educated explanations,
the ten-minute journey to the base
through green eucalyptus groves

are nothing compared to one sweet fold
in that chubby thigh
of yours.

(Translation from Hebrew to English by Joanna Chen)

Bolivar

1.
I photographed a woman in Bolivar Square.
A Columbian.

I wanted a close-up of her mahogany face
but she moved away, spread her arms obliquely
and flew

and so I photographed her against the background of a gothic cathedral
the Andes Mountains and blue sky and white clouds

2.
She was amazed I chose to photograph her,
por que, why

and I replied, bonita,
in other words, you're beautiful

The statue of the revolutionary Bolivar squinted at us from the square
the gothic cathedral smiled

Peace talks with leaders of guerilla organizations
continued

Her white teeth gleamed
bonita

(Translation from Hebrew to English by Joanna Chen)

– Dorit Weisman*

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