

Language Mixology

Half brother of the same halves,
simulacra is fancy for “absent.”

Like banging means “good”
or off the chain means “good.”

The same way off the hook forgets
the phone, I’m forgetting the space

between Oregon and North
Carolizzay, daylight savings time

and the addition of the “-izzay.”
So silly that suffix, verbed blackface

for black folks. So here you are
bouncing verbs without the face

paint like an empty room bounces
echoes: “The Mulatto Question,”

a question of remixing our name
or re-envisioning our cliché

like Bonz Malone saying, Life
is beautiful. It’s just the shit in it

that’s fucked up over vocals keys
looped like a fishhook. Didn’t he know

piano is necessary in any mulatto blues?
Black key for one woman or white

key for two women. You should
be writing and that combination

is feminine. We’ve got a disputed
lineage, like Arizona before

Estevancio named it. We’ve got all
kinds of folks acting like Estevancio,

get it? Mixed man, mixed man,
states weren't called states, even though

the pedigreed mountains, the high-
styling lizards were already in place.