

Kisiabaton

Beat-up datsun idling in the road
shreds of fog
almost-vertical hillsides drop away
huge stumps fading into mist
soft warm rain

Snaggy, forked and spreading tops, a temperate cloud-forest tree

Chamaecyparis formosiana—
Taiwan hinoki,
hung-kuai red cypress

That the tribal people call *kisiabaton*

this rare old tree
is what we came to see.

IX go, Ali-shan, Taiwan