Transcreator's Preface

Yunte Huang

"Think Haiku, Act Locu" is part of a series of poems entitled CRIBS (forthcoming as a book from Tinfish Press, 2005). CRIBS is a discrete sequence of poems probing into the manifolds of the book's title word: "crib" as a small child's bed, as literal translation, as plagiarism, as a summary or key to understanding a literary work, as a manger for feeding animals, as confinement, as home, as a memory aid for illegal immigrants, and so on. Speaking in a forked/chopsticked tongue, I explore translingual and cross-cultural terrains where the inchoate, tangential, and back-translational emerge and diverge to unsettle an adopted diction.

Note: When Richard Nixon went to China in 1972, his Chinese hosts took him to see the Great Wall. The first thing Nixon said upon arrival was: "What a great wall!"
Take it
with a grain of MSG

What's the memory size
of your abacus?

Speak
in a chopsticked tongue

Another day
another yen

The yin-yang
of base and superstructure

The Great
Great Wall*

Be careful
not to get shanghaied

The Peking-duck congress
is just a bunch of lame mandarins

The two stick together
like ping and pong
He sold his birthright
for a bowl of hot & sour soup?

A writer is a man
of characters
sell haiku
Buy locu