Syncope

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On the morning of March 27th, 2011, 72 people fled Tripoli on an inflatable boat, expecting to reach the Italian island of Lampedusa. Instead, though, their boat ran out of fuel and rather than being rescued by one of the many vessels in these highly surveilled waters, the boat drifted for 14 days until all but 11 of the passengers perished. Survivors recount various points of contact with the external world during their ordeal, such as a military helicopter lowering a few packets of biscuits and bottles of water. No vessel chose to provide any assistance whatsoever to the passengers. The events, as recounted by those aboard the Left-to-Die Boat, appeared to constitute a severe violation of the legal obligation to provide assistance to any person in distress at sea.

= Forensic Architecture

the left-to-die boat

a reckoning
a recitation
a dirge
an imprint

syn•co•pe
/'siNGkəpē/

noun

temporary loss of consciousness caused by a fall in blood pressure

syn•co•pe
/'siNGkəpē/

noun

the omission of sounds or letters from within a word, e.g., when
probably is pronounced 'präblē

syn•co•pe
/'siNGkəpē/

noun

in music, a change of rhythm and shift of accent when
a normally weak beat is stressed

there were 38 maritime vessels
they were all ocular if they chose to be

sight
is
for
seeing

naming
is
for
subjugating

if you've decided that
we're
black mules
mules we know
are not
meant
for
rescue

we subalterned
we 72 are human
we 72 are oil slick and black
hungry for a spot of water, bread
recognition as human

our skin — that which contains us —
is exposed to the high
exacting sun

We thought this orb was god seeing us

there   were   38 maritime   vessels
they   were   all ocular   if they chose to be

let us establish a fact:
eyes are for seeing
naming is for subjugating

a vantage is an equivocated belief
a border is shorthand for retreat