

## MENU IN CHINGLISH

*for John Yau*

*monolithic tree mushroom stem squid*

braised rainbow mangrove maw

double pronged rhizome berry pig sniper

shepherd's sponge spigot

beef cheek ricochet

preserved duck eggplant implosion

pungent heliotrope of oyster pouch

salted forehead belly blossom

chicken web monad broth

silver fin swimming membrane flavor

retinal eel matrix

bamboo vertigo

triple tongue cocoon in tube sauce

gluteal libidinal shrimps\*

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\* **A note on the text:** This poem was inspired by the phrase “monolithic tree mushroom stem squid” from the *New York Times* article “Shanghai Is Trying to Untangle the Mangled English of Chinglish” (May 2, 2010).