

LAURA WILLIAMS

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C-Print, 20 x 35.5 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

KIRA TAYLOR Paper Wasp

You are watching her pull
with careful measure a length
of bark from a grapevine,
her front legs in a tandem dance.

Beyond the vines, there is a mountain
between the brush of willow and larch;
there, where the road dips to the right and up
to the rush of water, the dim corridor of rock.
Your memory is there too:
it finds the yellow warblers blurred
by distance, drives to sharp relief
summer's lean shadows.

The world you've made here is frail
but you build your home in it still.
Through the walls you can see
the willow, the road,
the sharp edge of a canyon.
You will not leave
to walk down into
the bright yawn of stone.

The wasp is making pulp in her mouth
that grows into a house;
anchored by a petiole strand,
the foundation is as thin
as the stalk of a buttercup.
Slight as the skin of a nut,
this is the only thing
for which she will sting.

Kira Taylor is an environmental science graduate student at Western Washington University with forthcoming and current work in *Tule Review* and *Planet Magazine*. She lives in Bellingham with two housemates and eight chickens.