

## DAWN O'LEARY

# Due South

I hang up the phone, take out the map again,  
knowing where I travel next: Blank region

at the bottom, where explorers go to die.  
My creaky plane casts a shadow on the greens

of Africa, the blues of the South Atlantic,  
as I cruise down lines of longitude

to the white place. How discrete my shadow now:  
Suspended high above the Ice Shelf, frozen

in the air, I sit back—no need to pilot—  
and listen for a crack in the engine.

The splintering of fuselage.  
The breaking off of wings.

**Dawn O'Leary** is a poet, playwright, and screenwriter. Her poetry manuscript *Due South* was a semifinalist for the 2019 Catamaran Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared in many literary journals, and her plays have been produced on both coasts and points in between. She received a Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and her winning screenplay, about a young poet, was produced in 2004.

## NORMAN LOCKS

*Egret and Traffic*, 2015

Digital photograph, ink jet print, 32 X 60 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST