STEVEN LOUIS RAY

Hallelujah

how to know this is the quiet of my

and not the dreaming of the earth

how to know that men are sleeping

instead of swimming like a trepidation

anxious fish

how to know that winds carry more peace than

that sunrise brings the forest more warmth than

fear

how to know that gliding through ancestral waters will end in quiet love and not howling

anguish

maybe we moved onto land because the water would not let us

maybe the land was dumb and knew nothing of the water's rage

maybe the air welcomed us

above

as it could not see from high that it takes a greater being

to eschew guile and greed and live in honest

no misperception now the land is as the sky as is the water

they will cleanse themselves and be the better for it

hallelujah.

Steven Louis Ray is a multidisciplinary artist working in poetry, photography, and music. He was the poetry editor for the Fall 2019 issue of Forum, the literary journal of City College of San Francisco (CCSF). He is working on his first full-length poetry manuscript and pursuing a creative writing certificate at CCSF.

JOHN MOORE

High Water, 2019 Oil on canvas, 44 x 36 in

