

of the dead and could not figure what to do with what was left of his bones. I began to wish I had written down the hundreds of puzzles or riddles or aphorisms I'd heard over the forty years we had been friends. They'd make a tough old poem, built out of small steps, like Wittgenstein, or a Zen handbook. One night I jotted a few things he said into a notebook—

there's a corpse to float  
how do they make the code reported  
Howard said he never knew who put the acid in  
we gotta let them mice run a long way  
don't get airborne  
getting complicated reminds me of brothers

That last day, I kissed his wild head when departing.  
His hair smelled like meadow grass. He was very thin.  
A couple of weeks later, Laura sent a card with something  
Dale had dictated on January 11th. He'd asked her to send  
it to me. I separated it out into lines, like a little song. I see  
what it is: a ghost dance song.

I'm glad this  
shitty thing  
didn't stretch out past  
twilight

jesus christ

if we can  
still help each other  
and I think we can  
let's

### Editor's note

Dale Pendell was a regular contributor to *Catamaran* since its inaugural issue in Fall 2012. For that issue he contributed an essay, "Solitary." Despite his solitary nature, Dale was the best company a person could have: generous, kind, thoughtful, and creative. The breadth of his interests is reflected in his work that was published in *Catamaran*. "Solitary" is a personal memoir that describes his coming of age in prison. Winter 2014 saw "Broken Symmetry," his reflections on John Piper's windows for the baptistery of St. Michael's cathedral in Coventry. "Holes in the Ground," which appeared in the Spring 2016 issue, was a catalogue of creatures living in the soil of his home in the Sierra foothills. In Spring 2017 he continued his exploration of that region with "Tracing the Pluton," an investigation of its geology. Maybe Dale wasn't so much solitary as unique. He created a unique personal style that effortlessly combined poetics, historicism, and scientific exploration. There will not be another like him.

—Thomas Christensen, Contributing Editor

**Andrew Schelling** has published twenty books, most recently *Tracks Along the Left Coast: Jaime de Angulo & Pacific Coast Culture*, a folkloric account of West Coast ethnography, linguistics, bohemian poets, and California Indian lore. Forthcoming in November is *Some Unquenchable Desire: Poems of the Buddhist Hermit Bhartrihari*. Schelling lives in the Southern Rocky Mountains of Colorado and teaches at Naropa University.

## KATHLEEN FORSYTHE

*High Power Graffiti*, 2016

Digital on aluminum, 16 x 18 in



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