

ROLAND PETERSEN

The Profile, 1959
Oil on canvas, 30 x 52 in



COURTESY THE STUDIO SHOP GALLERY

GARY LARK Solstice

It's one of those warm evenings
in a new summer when possibility circulates
in the air like an invitation,
even the bones that can't dance want to.

I have entered mountain water
as it creates the valley it follows,
otter and ouzel my companions.
I swam the reflection of night.

I have been one with the song
that sings itself into being.
The pattern of the dance found me,
minnow in starlight.

There's an ache for those distant dances,
the waded rivers, Brahms on the car radio,
all the windows down and no one caring
whether I dance or yodel.

Freedom can speak on soft air
and when you hear its voice,
run like the devil to catch up.
It doesn't stay around long.

Gary Lark's poetry collections include *River of Solace* (Flowstone Press, 2016), winner of the *Turtle Island Quarterly* Editor's Choice Chapbook Award; *In the House of Memory* (BatCat Press, 2016); *Without a Map* (Wellstone Press, 2013); and *Getting By* (Logan House Press, 2009), winner of the Holland Prize. His new book, *Ordinary Gravity*, is forthcoming from Airfile Press, 2018. His work has appeared in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Catamaran Literary Reader*, *Poet Lore*, and *ZYZZYVA*.