

KAREN POPPY

Telling It Slant

This tree leans,
Not to tell
Any truth
But its own:
Slant toward
Full dazzlement,
Throwing down
Superb shade.
No metaphor meant,
Just direct survival.
Roots splayed
In full grip
Of earth.
Leaves, successful
In circuit, pointing
Upward.

Karen Poppy has had work published in the *American Journal of Poetry*, the *Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide*, *ArLiJo*, the *Wallace Stevens Journal*, and *Chaleur Magazine*. She has chapbooks forthcoming from Finishing Line Press and Homestead Lighthouse Press. Poppy has also recently compiled her first full-length poetry collection and written her first novel, and she is at work on her second poetry collection and second novel. An attorney licensed in California and Texas, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

KAREN GALLAGHER IVERSON

Crest From Below, Tahoe Tree Line 4, 2017
Drawn and pochoir-colored pastel on wax on panel, 10 in x 10 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST