

DAVID ALLEN SULLIVAN

Places Produce Poems

The trail at Pogonip where two men pass, talking about the biomolecular transference along cell lines, is equivalent to the heaths on Skye, where Richard Hugo unfurls Anglo-Saxon word-strikes. And down on Big Sur's rocked coast Robinson Jeffers rolls river-rounded rocks up plank ramps to the top of his wall, seeing how the nose of one will fit the crotch of another, gentling them into snugness before any mortar. Emily Dickinson does grave rubbings in Amherst, nibbles daisies someone placed on her grave. Milosz connects a Poland oxcart—four feet dangling through adolescence—to Sausalito's guilt trip of nuclear warheads slid into the belly of a ship in the bay. Kabir paints me India. I take Bashō's walk in an air-conditioned tour bus. Radnoti Miklos carries me in his breast pocket through half of France. Kumin currycombs a horse in Connecticut, while Jim Harrison shoots an effing pheasant out of a Michigan sky. Neruda's dancing up a political aisle into a bed in every woman's eyes. Campbell McGrath clouds over Miami: Orange Crush in one hand, a kid's brush of hair in the other. Ellen Bass womans the Santa Cruz lighthouse. Ted Kooser squats, hands on knees, to look up at a jacked-up house, then tests a crossbeam with a pat and finds it solid as a midwestern marriage. Mary Oliver buries her dog among wild irises. William Carlos Williams goes over Paterson Falls in a barrel. Whitman comes to the window and signs to the female inmates over the wall. Homer feels his way up from the cushion to recite. Gilgamesh speaks with a clay stylus, and I write on an unglued shopping bag all that the homeless man's whispering.

David Allen Sullivan's books include *Strong-Armed Angels*, *Every Seed of the Pomegranate*, a book of translation from the Arabic of Iraqi poet Adnan Al-Sayegh, *Bombs Have Not Breakfasted Yet*, and *Black Ice*. Most recently, he won the Mary Ballard Chapbook Poetry Prize for *Take Wing*. He teaches at Cabrillo College, where he edits *Porter Gulch Review* with his students, and lives in Santa Cruz, California, with his family.

DALE ROBERTS

The Light Beyond, 2016
Encaustic on panel, 41 x 44 in



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