

## BEVERLY BURCH

# First, the Breaking

That irreplaceable vase, an alibi, a promise.  
A fingernail, a bone, a marriage.

A mind on the Catherine wheel of silence.

Ice sheet, egg, acorn, amniotic waters.

One day the earth ruptures. A lifted edge tips  
to the west and there's the Sierra Madre.

One day an avalanche. A boulder splinters into  
the valley. Slide of gravel, crush of stones.  
A cairn. A cathedral.

Beverly Burch's newest collection, *How A Mirage Works*, won the 2012 poetry competition of Sixteen Rivers Press and will be published in April 2014. Her first poetry book, *Sweet to Burn*, won the Gival Poetry Prize and a Lambda Literary Award. She also has a psychotherapy practice in Berkeley, California.

## CATIE O'LEARY

*Untitled (mushrooms)*, 2011  
collage with antique engravings, 8.5 x 12 in



courtesy the artist