

DANE CERVINE

Waking to the Dark

It is dark outside, he said. Then blow out the candle, she replied.

It was the same each anniversary, their banter
a way of loving. His words, like fangs or swords,
long since quieted. Her words, like a sharp stick
to the head, no longer drawing blood. They'd climb
the peak each year with their tortured journals,
burn them page by page in a Tibetan prayer bowl.
Take one silver hair from the head of the other,
let it float down over the cliff into vast space.
Like a secret no one could trace. The world
is like this. Someone says, *It is dark outside,*
and another replies, *Then blow out the candle.*

Dane Cervine's poetry books include *Kung Fu of the Dark Father* (2015), *How Therapists Dance* (2013), and *The Jeweled Net of Indra* (2007). *Saddle Road Press* will publish his new cross-genre work of Zen koan & prose poems in 2018, entitled *The Gateless Gate—Polishing the Moon Sword*. Dane's poems have won awards from Adrienne Rich, Tony Hoagland, the *Atlanta Review*, *Caesura*, and been nominated for a Pushcart. His work appears in *The SUN*, the *Hudson Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Poetry Flash*, *Catamaran*, *Miramar*, *Rattle*, *Sycamore Review*, *Pedestal Magazine*, among others. Visit his website at: www.DaneCervine.typepad.com

JASON E. CARTER

Domestic #16, 2013
Oil on canvas, 37.5 x 51 in



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