

CHARLES F. THIELMAN

Watchers of Falling Stars

(for Robert Desnos)

*Robert Desnos, a French surrealist poet,
was also a World War II Resistance fighter.
Captured and imprisoned, he died in
Theresienstadt concentration camp.*

Gusts swirl newspaper
into a dance across asphalt,
headlines spin, a page leans out,

broken wing of a swan,
his feathered oar pulling him deep
into the jackbooted ovals of his wake,

into the birth of the dark wonder
that slips up behind watchers of falling stars
and traps naïveté in corridors of quartz.

Rain pelts in, hissing silver into streetlight,
the stars of five bridges swim through this curtain
as finger bones of light kneel in our coal-gray river.

Robert, the ten roads of an artist's hands
are crusts of bread leavened
in songs of blue conch.

What is it we hope for?

We echo our hearts and stand watch.

Charles F. Thielman was raised in Charleston, South Carolina, and Chicago. He has worked as a youth counselor, truck driver, city bus driver, and enthused bookstore clerk. His poems have appeared in *The South Carolina Review*, *The Pedestal*, *Gargoyle*, *Pif Magazine*, *Poetry365*, *FutureCycle*, *Gangway Poetry Salzburg*, and elsewhere.

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