

Martin Willitts Jr.

Hidden

There is a circle in a seemingly useless field of tall weeds
and loosestrife. The circle mergers
loss and silence, and contemplation is in the reeds.

I could stare at into the faraway,
through every plant, every pore of their cells —
and all the clutter in the world would vanish.

Sound never reaches the faraway.
It can circle around in the distance like white noise.
I respond only to the siren's call of the purple loosestrife.

In this wide world where smallness hides
in open places hoping to be found,
there is much never seen or heard or known.

Purple Sun

Weather predicts thunderous snow,
whiteouts like the ice age.
We will all be buried alive by noon.

My window is splat with occasional flakes.
Beyond, the plum tree makes green life,
dreaming of plums.

Life can be that simple, or that complex.
We do not need to accelerate fear.
There is always an unseen part of life —

those are the moments worth seeing.
The plums are dreaming of filling branches,
even in winter, even in the shorter days.

Let the snow worry and cause misery;
my window sees through lies —
I see that the sun inside frozen haze is a plum.

And Then We Wonder Why We Get Mistreated

All unspoiled mornings need a song.
Loneliness should always follow a warning.
This is when chickadees speak about feelings.
This is when season's migrate.

Pieces of light yellow the green leaves.
Too much of anything is too much.
This is why we do not trust the fleeting moments,
always expecting disturbance, or worse.

The unexpected keeps us alert.
We can stick a wet finger in the air to know
which way disaster blows,
but the winds will shift like guilty eyes.

Martin Willitts Jr. has poems in numerous magazines including Blue Fifth Review, Big City Lit, Kentucky Review, Comstock Review, Centrifugal Eye, Nine Mile Magazine, and others. He has over 20 chapbooks including recently *"The Burnt-Over District"* (e-book, Icarus Books, 2015). He also has 11 full-length collections including *"Iris, the Lightning Conductor For Van Gogh's Illness"* (Aldrich Press, 2014), *"God Is Not Amused with What You Are Doing in Her Name"* (Aldrich Press, 2015), *"How to Be Silent"* (FutureCycle Press, 2016).