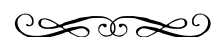


KATHLEEN KIRK

The Idea of the Good

The idea of the good is that white cloud.
The path to it is this aluminum fold-up
ladder, the one I keep open & upright
in my kitchen, because I cannot reach
any shelf but the first easily. It's handy,
lightweight but a little bulky, and I hang
wet dishtowels on it to dry. In summer
I take it outside to water hanging pots
on the patio, but if I place it on the lawn,
to contemplate the good, it tends to tip
over on uneven ground, even if I seek
the subtle hillock of crab grass or wild
violet, homemade scrape of batter's box,
or pitcher's sunken mound for balance.
We all know that an aluminum triangle
with steps will not transport nor hold me up,
but the earth's ragged usefulness persists.
I fall on my knees and praise it, praise it.

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18 May 2014
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ABOUT KATHLEEN KIRK



Kathleen Kirk is the author of five chapbooks, most recently *Nocturnes* (Hyacinth Girl Press 2012) and *Interior Sculpture* (dancing girl press 2014). Her work has appeared in *Confrontation*, *Nimrod*, *Redheaded Stepchild*, *Poetry East*, and *Waccamaw*. She received an MA in English from DePaul University and works as a freelance writer, editor, actor, and director. She also serves as the poetry editor for *Escape Into Life*. Kathleen lives in central Illinois and blogs at *Wait! I Have a Blog?!* (kathleenkirkpoetry.blogspot.com).

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