

Temple Builders' Lament

Swallows string cats' cradles
above the roofs.
A robed young woman
locked out into the morning
smiles, as if tricked,
at the sky. Later her face
appears in every window
of a passing train, like a CD skipping.
After-dinner rain
empties the hot streets, a fly
draws a rectangle endlessly
in the center of the room.
In that frame: the sculptor's
journal-notes for the lost
lecture: "Building the Temple
of the Future Within Us."
He guessed we'd find ourselves
in frames within frames, but
couldn't have imagined these same
acts of resistance the only left us:
watching bats and butterflies flicker
over the canal; picking apricots
on a slope nearly too steep
to stand on; opening an old book,
again and again.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brandon Krieg is the author of *Source to Mouth* (DIAGRAM/New Michigan Press 2012) and *Invasives* (New Rivers Press 2014). His work has also appeared in *FIELD*, *The Iowa Review*, *North American Review*, *Antioch Review*, and *The Cincinnati Review*. He is an assistant professor at Westminster College and the faculty adviser for the college's literary magazine, *Janus*. He is also one of the founding editors of *The Winter Anthology*. He lives in Columbia, Missouri. Online at brandonkrieg.com.

HERON TREE

2 April 2017

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