

MICKI BLENKUSH

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Cartography of Ruins

I slow my drive  
past the abandoned gravel pit  
where, as we were growing up  
the trees and shrubs  
had not yet taken over

and we could still climb  
the lilt of land  
carved by machines  
into bowls and hills unlike anything  
formed in nature.

Then we measured the earth  
in newborn snakes,  
against the weight  
of buttercups carried home  
in drooping bouquets.

Now from the road,  
the canopy of trees grown taller  
than when we squeezed  
between them  
at the entrance of long ago.

Gone must be  
the hollows where we sat  
on our first picnic of spring,  
dainty as teacups  
on the still-brown grass

peeling Easter eggs  
across the damp soil,  
leaving shells scattered  
in pastel mosaic offering  
to gods we wanted to know.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Micki Blenkush is a social worker and lives in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Her work has appeared in *Gyroscope Review*, *Postcard Poems and Prose*, *\*82 Review*, *Typishly*, and *Crab Creek Review*. She is a member of the League of Minnesota Poets and a board member of Lyricality, an organization that fosters community and connection through poetry. Micki can be found online at [mickiblenkush.com](http://mickiblenkush.com).

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