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Wind after Wordsworth and The Renovation Sonnet: San Francisco

Dean Rader

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Dean Rader

Wind after Wordsworth

I feel sorry for words
Trapped in love poems about wind.
How many years have they waited

For their grand entrance
Onto the stage of the poem:
Dreaming of the day they speak

An absent landscape into being:
An absent lover into a bed:
An absent poem into god's mouth:

(But the words in this poem
Seem little more than words in a poem . . .
Words in a poem
about words in a poem:
Wind in a world of wind.)
#

I want to blow
Through wind like a tunnel.

I want to know where
It slinks at night to rest.

I want to know what the wind
Has against tennis matches,

Where it stops for beer:

About wind comes to:)

#

Or this:

To blow as the wind blows

Through Wordsworth's Prelude:

(O there is blessing in this gentle breeze):

To mean like the word love or heart

In a villanelle written for the Almighty God,

(Or two sacred ghosts in the act of love):

To be the wind on your lips,

The wind in your hair, the wind in the mouth
of your mouth:

O to be the final poem bowing

On your heart's windy stage:

#

The Renovation Sonnet: San Francisco

It was Picasso who said that every act
Of creation is first an act of destruction.
Maybe, but I bet he never looked behind

The wall of that bathroom in the Haight.
Lathe and drywall, plaster, panel and parquet.
We live not what we see but what we build.

Bachelard tells us that inhabited space
Transcends geometrical space—that's
True even in the Sunset. If the fog
Closes in, change your house to sky.

Maybe it will be a small bedroom off
The hall, a nursery for the first baby,

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Dean Rader has published widely in the fields of poetry, American Indian studies, and popular and visual culture. His debut collection of poems, *Works & Days*, won the 2010 T. S. Eliot Prize and is a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters First Book Prize. Poems have appeared in *Colorado Review*, *POOL*, *Connecticut Review*, *Quarterly West* and many others. In 2009 he won the Sow's Ear Review poetry prize and his "Twilight at Ocean Beach: 14" was named by Verse Daily as one of the Best Poems of 2010. He also writes a regular column for the City Brights section of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the most notable of which is the now famous/infamous "10 Greatest Poets" project. He is a professor of English at the University of San Francisco.

