

## TATIANA GORBACHEVA

*Approach*, 2011  
Oil on Canvas, 14 x 18 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

## PETER NEIL CARROLL

### Destiny

She did not know what she was thinking  
during the dark hours she waited  
until her husband began to snore.  
That gave her permission. Slipping  
from bed, she grabbed her hooded coat,  
fur-lined boots, unlocked the storm door  
to face the icy stars.

She had no intention, swaying  
on the rope swing, hoping  
a comet would burn up the sky.  
When that didn't happen  
she took it as an omen  
anyway, certain she would perish  
in the cold Midwestern night  
if she didn't leave at once for California.

That's the first story she told me.  
I knew at last where I'd wind up.

**Peter Neil Carroll's** third collection of poetry, *Fracking Dakota* (Turning Point), will be published in 2015. Earlier books include, *A Child Turns Back to Wave: Poetry of Lost Places* (Press Americana, 2012) which won the Prize Americana from the Institute for American Popular Culture and *Riverborne: A Mississippi Requiem*.