

**DEROLD
ERNEST SLIGH**

Preface to
a Coyote
Dream

In the dream,
there was no coyote
and there was no man—

the street running down to the canyon
was lined with jacaranda, lemon, and orange trees.
It was as if everything had to be ornamented,
as if some artist was begging for credit for his creation—
everything glistening as if painted with a coat of rain.
Lights in the sky separated day from night,
marking seasons, illuminating the earth,
splitting light from shadow. The greater light
governed day, while the lesser light
presided over night. And God said,
“Let the water teem with living creatures,
and let birds fly under the mouthfuls of light.”
So God created the great creatures of the sea
and every living and moving thing with which the
water teems,
and every winged bird according to its kind.
And God saw that it was good.

Yes, the stage was set.
Enter the coyote. Enter the man.

Derold Sligh currently lives in Seoul, South Korea. He was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan. He received an MA from Central Michigan University and an MFA from San Diego State University. His work has appeared in the *American Poetry Journal*, *Mythium*, *Konundrum Engine Literary Review*, *Saw Palm*, and *Temenos*, among other journals.

**SANDRA
MENDELSON RUBIN**

Bridge Over the Navarro, 2013
Oil on polyester, 6 1/2x 7 1/4 in

