



## TERRI ROLLAND

*Three Earths, 2015*

Acrylic and clay paint, 28 x 8 x 3/4 in

COURTESY THE ARTIST

## DANE CERVINE

# Earth Is a Fickle Dancer

At the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco,  
there is a fluid map of the world  
where one can spin the silver toggle  
with a finger, watch familiar continents  
swim like fish round a globe  
I thought reliable.

Once, a single vast ocean  
we now call Panthalassa  
surrounded the supercontinent Pangaea  
in the southern hemisphere,  
this restless Earth always moving,  
tectonic plates cavorting:  
the Americas thrown from Africa,  
India a leaping dancer thrust  
at the immovable body of the Himalayas,  
the shifting floor between California  
and the Appalachians flooded  
with new seas.

Inch the dial one million years,  
not much changes—a new isthmus here,  
a new mountain there. But spin  
the silver disk like the six-year-old  
who muscles his way in between  
my torso and the luminous map  
saying, *Let me see! Let me see!*  
and the world reveals itself  
as the flamenco dancer it is:  
the hem of her dress bunched  
in hand like the Alps,  
toe of her boot spinning  
my leaden feet nimble,  
oceans flooding into the breach  
of Gibraltar with one blink  
of her Mediterranean eyes.

**Dane Cervine's** new poetry book is entitled *Kung Fu of the Dark Father*. Previous books include *How Therapists Dance* (2013) and *The Jeweled Net of Indra* (2007)—all from Plain View Press. His poems have won or been finalists for awards from Adrienne Rich, Tony Hoagland, *Atlanta Review* and *Caesura*, and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His work appears in a diverse range of publications, including the *Sun*, the *Hudson Review*, *Poetry Flash*, *Catamaran Literary Reader*, *Sycamore Review*, and *Pedestal Magazine*, anthologies, short film, animation, newspapers, and a fine press broadside of his poem "Clay Feet" by Middle Earth Editions.