

MICHAEL BASHISTA

Torso, 2012
Carrara Arabesque Marble, 7 x 11 x 4 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST, PHOTO CREDIT: GARRY TRIGGER

RAPHAEL KOSEK

*Pelvis with
Moon*, 1943
Georgia O'Keeffe

White angel, balustrade of bone,
the bluest piece of sky
is framed in your elegant portal
as you buttress the bone moon
on your bleached hip

where warm flesh, haunch of steer
or pony, procreational pivot
once saddled you to your spent mortality
where you breathed red dust
roamed blue mountains

where your stony eye rolled white
and wild when the man encircled you
with his rope. Such pink living,
such beaten paths so far
from the sea

and now your gleaming bone
resembles nothing so much
as a pierced and dazzling whorl
of shell with the sea of sky
leaking through, a windy
trumpet of soundless music,
a gorgeous vacancy
unbridled, no longer ridden
or driven or dreaming,
but a window to heavenly space.

Raphael Kosek's poetry has appeared in *Commonweal*, *Silk Road*, *Big Muddy*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, and other magazines. Her 2009 chapbook, *Letting Go*, was published by Finishing Line Press, and includes several O'Keeffe-inspired poems. She has written nearly a hundred poems about O'Keeffe's paintings. Kosek teaches American literature and creative writing at Marist College and Dutchess Community College in the Hudson Valley.