

## MICHAEL CUTLIP

*Bird on a Wire*, 2012  
Mixed Media on Panel, 40 x 48 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

## THOMAS CRAWFORD

### Earth Art

My heart I had to approach  
with wheelbarrow and pick,  
and the impossible task  
of believing in what I could not see.  
So, when the Yellow-bellied Chats  
showed up in a line,  
upside down, hanging  
on the grape arbor  
for the fat, black grapes  
in my backyard I knew  
my old hands out ahead of me  
were on to something more  
than hope, that every poem,  
if you kept at it, could be a bird  
coming into view, but also  
a wave, or, if you like,  
a particle, thanks to those waffling  
physicists who can't agree  
on what's real. But I already knew,  
young, I could choose, if unhappy  
(because we do need solace),  
my very own god.

**Thomas Crawford's** poetry books include *If It Weren't for Trees*; *I Want to Say Listen*; *Lauds*, which won the Oregon Book Award for Poetry; *The Temple on Monday*, winner of the ForeWord Book of the Year Award; *Wu We*; and *The Names of Birds*. He has received a Pushcart Prize and two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. His new collection of poetry is *Caging the Robin*. Cedar House Books.