DAVID LIGARE

Garrapata Rock, Big Sur, 2006 Oil on Canvas, 40 x 48 in



courtesy: Winfield Gallery, Carmel

GARY SNYDER

Riprap

Lay down these words
Before your mind like rocks.
placed solid, by hands

In choice of place, set

Before the body of the mind in space and time:

Solidity of bark, leaf, or wall riprap of things:

Cobble of milky way,

straying planets, These poems, people,

lost ponies with

Dragging saddles—

and rocky sure-foot trails.

The worlds like an endless four-dimensional

Game of Go.

ants and pebbles

In the thin loam, each rock a word a creek-washed stone

Granite: ingrained

with torment of fire and weight

Crystal and sediment linked hot all change, in thoughts,

As well as things.

Reprinted by the permission of the author and the publisher, from Riprap and Cold Mountain Poems by Gary Snyder, published by Counterpoint Press, Berkeley © 1958, 1959, 1965, 2009 by Gary Snyder.