

CHARLES GOODRICH

Seismic Activity on Marys Peak

Scientists determined the earthquake
was centered a hundred miles off the coast,
4.2 on the Richter scale, too slight
to be felt on land.

But I was sitting in the meadow
on top of Marys Peak that day,
watching several species of wasps, flies, and bees
patronizing a lily—like hard-drinking aliens
at an intergalactic tavern—
and I felt *something*.

Whether it was that distant
submarine temblor, or a sudden disappearance
of self, or just the mountain shrugging its shoulders
in stoic indifference,
I couldn't say.

Charles Goodrich is the author of three books of poetry, *A Scripture of Crows* (Silverfish Review Press, 2013); *Going to Seed: Dispatches from the Garden* (Silverfish Review Press, 2010); and *Insects of South Corvallis* (Cloudbank Books, 2003), and a collection of essays, *The Practice of Home* (Lyons Press, 2004). He has coedited two anthologies, *Forest Under Story: Creative Inquiry in an Old-Growth Forest* (University of Washington Press, 2016) and *In the Blast Zone: Catastrophe and Renewal on Mount St. Helens* (Oregon State University Press, 2008). For many years he supported his poetry habit by working as a professional gardener, and he recently retired from his post as director of the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word.

EILEEN NEFF

Man on the Mountain, 2017
Archival pigment on dibond, 20 x 30 in



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