

DENNY HOLLAND

Swept Under, 2019
Oil on panel, 24 x 60 in



COURTESY THE STUDIO SHOP GALLERY

JOSHUA BOETTIGER

Trust

While you've slept, one whole rotation completed.
Sentries lit their pipes, strained their eyes, and kept most everyone safe.
Firewood gathered and turned into coal, into ash.

The swallow nests on the Street of Brilliant Reasons
packed with hearts beating three hundred fifty times a minute.
At rest. An octopus in the black sea forgot to camouflage itself.

Other unspeakable losses endured by other people
who sat in chairs and didn't care that the blinds were up.
Someone learned wings. Another postponed their death

by telling stories. While you've slept, pebbles were rinsed
and turned by the waves of a cloudy sea. Something
resembling resolution tiptoed down the hall.

There was loud breathing, but it was only your own breathing.
Nothing reminded you of anything.
A child woke up and took herself to the bathroom.

Joshua Boettiger lives in Ashland, Oregon. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Image*, *B O D Y*, *Parabola*, and elsewhere, and he is a contributing author to the anthology *Neither Here nor There: The Many Voices of Liminality* (Lutterworth Press, 2019).