Reading the Water

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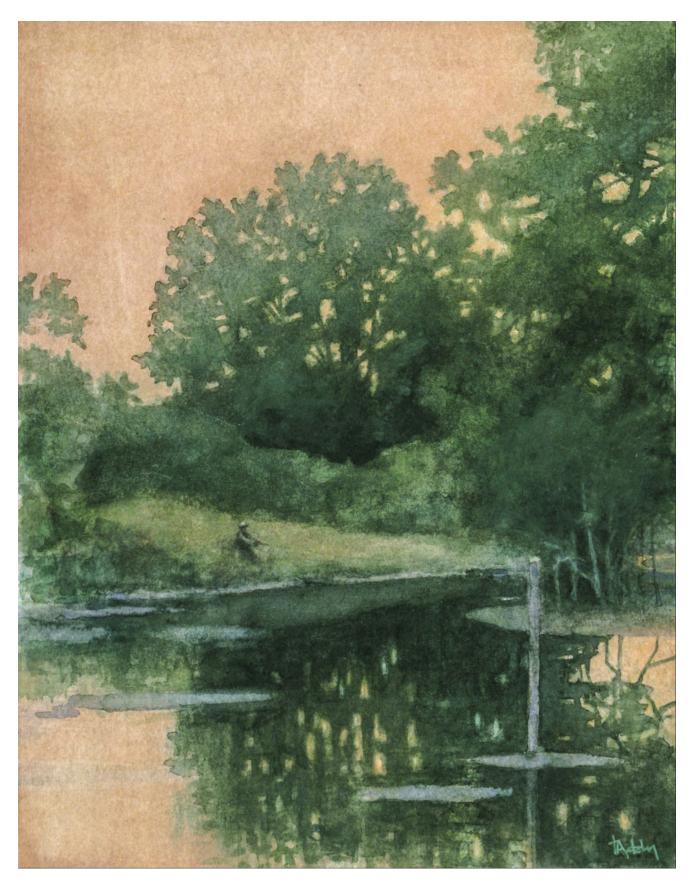
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[by Michael Hill]

At daybreak, the tall grass beaded with silvery dew, I crack open the cover to a crisp, new page of river and wade on in, following along closely as riffle, run, and pool spill their stories, each one a unique narrative filled with boulders, overhanging branches and undercut banks, but all flowing to the same conclusion: the telltale riseform of a feeding trout, its meaning rippling outward into the morning, where I grasp firmly, strip out a bit more line, and ready my cast.

Michael Hill's poems have been published by Midwestern Gothic, Concho River Review, Verse Wisconsin, and Dos Gatos Press. He was a finalist in Garrison Keillor's 2014 Love Letters contest, a call for poetry that drew more than 1,100 entries. He lives in Colorado.



A Twilight Spiritual, an original watercolor, 12 by 9 inches, by Thomas Aquinas Daly