

Martin Willitts Jr

Unfinished

My father liked to tinker on projects,
promising to finish them *someday*,
quickly accumulating another passion.

Today, the clouds were incomplete.
I'd been to his grave a second time
to bury my mother's ashes with his.

My sister wanted to be buried with them
while she was still alive.
She was always the more dramatic one.

I inherited a box of dad's unfinished plans.
They're buried in the attic
where I never seem to get to them.

Today, rain fell heavy as hammers.
My brother sighed like our dad used to sigh,
when unloading parts needing some assembly.

We went our separate ways,
and left behind words
we'd say another day.

Martin Willitts Jr has 25 chapbooks including the Turtle Island Quarterly Editor's Choice Award, *The Wire Fence Holding Back the World* (Flowstone Press, 2017), plus 20 full-length collections including the Blue Light Award 2019, *The Temporary World*. His recent book is *Unfolding Towards Love* (Wipf and Stock, 2020).

