

## **Martin Willitts Jr.**

### **The World Has Tentative Moments**

Although yesterday ended, the world keeps slipping by  
in its restless changes. The world is not waiting  
for us to catch up; it keeps moving steadily forward.

In this canoe, when I place my paddle inside,  
allowing the current to erase this day, the water moves,  
the boat glides effortlessly between shadows and light.

I wonder where the stillness goes. Even when  
the sky clears and the cattails can't hold still in wind,  
there are thousands of incidents, great and incredibly small.

The boat nudges and rocks. Water ring-ripples, creasing,  
closing in. Moments happen no matter what I do.  
My breath is heard in near-silence, carries over water surface.

Why would I want this world to stop lurching forward?  
I can't question these moments, and I can't let them go, either.  
I place the oar inside my boat, slipping into the movement.

Maybe whatever I do today has no impact on the world.  
Maybe whatever I do really does matter.  
I cannot question. I can only observe and hope I understand.

**Martin Willitts Jr.**, edits the *Comstock Review*. His 25 chapbooks include the *Turtle Island Quarterly Editor's Choice Award*, *The Wire Fence Holding Back the World* (Flowstone Press, 2017), plus 21 full-length collections including the 2019 Blue Light Award for *The Temporary World* and *All Wars Are the Same War* (FutureCycle Press, 2022).