

Tim Suermond

Omaha Beach

On the slopes above the seawall, houses
and apartments dot the greenery, many of them
charming, a little smug if not entirely bourgeois.

At the end of a sandy path by the main road
an old couple, walking as slow as beetles, help
each other negotiate the terrain and where

a woman sells ice cream, one euro for one bar.
I talk with her, pleased that my spotty French
has risen to the occasion. “Do you like your job?”

“Look at this vast blue ocean,” she says,
how can you possibly ask the world for more?”

A Very Little Elegy

The jazz club has officially closed down—
soon to become a bank or some such.
The stage is already cleared, except
for a drum and snare set that somehow
didn't get the word. Trumpet players
will have to play Taps. This is the first time
I'm thankful that I don't have a trumpet.

Tim Suermond is the author of five full-length collections of poems, the latest *Josephine Baker Swimming Pool* from MadHat Press, 2019. He has published in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Georgia Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Stand Magazine*, *december magazine*, *On the Seawall*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Poet Lore* and *Plume*, among many others. He lives in Cambridge (MA) with his wife, the poet Pui Ying Wong.