

## **Martin Willitts, Jr.**

### **There is Changing Rain**

“I go through the dark lit from within. Does daylight exist?”

--*Miguel Hernandez.*

Through a wall of rain, dragging  
a leather harness, buckles bouncing on mud,  
knowing I should be more careful, but  
it weighed more than me, to oil it.

We all know this shining burn  
from doing more than we can. This  
spread of work empties us. It takes  
the heart into a butter churn. Otherwise,  
this entire world is small bits of darkness.

“Push yourself through pain,” suggested  
grandfather, “I can oil your muscles later.”  
And I’d wait for later, like a horse  
for a harness, or tall grass for all-day rain.  
I’d hiking those last miles still short of arriving,  
too tired, arms aching.

Martin Willitts Jr won the 2013 Bill Holm Witness Poetry Contest; 2013 “Trees” Poetry Contest; 2014 Broadsided Award; 2014 Dylan Thomas International Poetry Contest; and, Rattle Ekphrastic Challenge and the June 2015 Editor’s Choice. He has published over 20 chapbooks, and 11 full-length collections including the forthcoming *How to Be Silent* (Future Cycle Press, 2016), and *Dylan Thomas and the Writer’s Shed*, also from (FutureCycle Press, 2017).