

Alison Hicks

Groundwater

channels under structures we build—
cities, cathedrals, parking lots—
streams over asphalt, seeking the drain,

always somewhere to move,
a path already carved,

groove to fall into.

One yard's trouble empties into the next,
pumped into streets where it runs off,

splashed onto feet and tires, carried home on shoes.

It starts in the snowpack, a crack
through which it drips, rolls downhill, gathering its kind.

Alison Hicks is the author of *Kiss* (PS Books, 2011), a full-length poetry collection, *Falling Dreams* (Finishing Line Press, 2006), a chapbook, and *Love: A Story of Images* (AWA Press, 2004), a finalist in the 1999 *Quarterly West* Novella Competition. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Broad River Review*, *Crack the Spine*, *Eclipse*, *Fifth Wednesday*, *Gargoyle*, *Licking River Review*, *The Ledge*, *Louisville Review*, *Permafrost*, *Sanskrit*, *Whiskey Island*, and other journals. Awards include the 2011 *Philadelphia City Paper* Poetry Prize and two Pennsylvania Council on the Arts fellowships. She is founder of Greater Philadelphia Wordshop Studio, which offers community-based writing workshops.