

Take-off

(after a line by Derek Walcott)

Have you seen the way the day grows
around you, neither perpendicular
nor horizontal –

open to whims, new currents,
the sky inviting banks of cloud,
stubborn vaults of air?

How it keeps you balancing
like that angel on a pinhead,
your feet facing all ways into the poem!

You follow it, you're the wind, a gale,
path escalating – you're sure
the day has you in its sights.

And you welcome it, ready
to be astonished.

Katherine Gallagher