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# Pro Rege

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## Illusions

Shelby Gesch

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# Illusions

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*Shelby Gesch*

Stepping into the sea,  
did Peter feel the water  
congeal under his feet

or did he only take notice  
when the surface dissolved  
beneath him,

flooding into  
the thousand fractures of his faith  
as he sank,  
a failed vessel  
distracted  
by the illusion  
of his own buoyancy

# False Spring

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*Rose Postma*

In Iowa a robin must be snowed upon three times  
before spring can come, but this year it was four,  
five times if you count that one morning when  
a wintry mix salted the air on the drive to work.  
The snow is heavy on our backs too this spring—  
sadness seeping deep between our feathers, the cold  
pressing close against our skin. The therapist says  
it's time to put down roots, time to stop packing boxes,  
time to stop migrating. So we let the snow rest  
on our backs. We huddle under laden limbs, no nest,  
no nourishment, no way to even warm each other.