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The Arrangement of Holes and Hills

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The Arrangement of Holes and Hills

Megan McHugh

Andrea Saunders Gereighty/Academy of American Poets Poetry Award 2011 Winner
Judged by: Ron Smith

Why hold onto all that? And I said,
Where can I put it down?
She shifted to a question about airports.
– Anne Carson, The Glass Essay

i.

Once we create something,
anything, in this world, there is
the problem of where to put it.

ii.

My fag friends sit around the bar
trying to figure out where one can take a date
on a layover in the Atlanta airport.
All excited, as if nearly completing
a crossword, they say,
It'll take too long if you bring him to the park across the street. Now the bathrooms, they’re too well lit. Not the food court either... Wait! Wait! The parking garage stairwell!

iii.

We all make holes; we all make hills.

But how do you find the absence to carve out in the first place?

*Just as you find a hopscotch court*

on a bare sidewalk, a girlfriend in an old roommate.

Then where do you put what was before the hole?

*Well that is up to you.*

Maybe next to the hole, maybe just keep it on the shovel.

iv.

You have just an hour’s worth of desire traveling from Tampa to New York. Where does it go after it sneaks down a cold, gray corridor, after your dick unswells, and there’s more room in your pants?

You make it look so easy.

But what of us, the unduly chaste, stuck with our bulging memories? Some of us have to hold onto it.