

A Collapsible Newfoundland

Patrick O'Reilly

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The Astronauts

While John Kennedy was putting cowboys on the moon
we were moving houses over water.

Unmoored ourselves and drove from shore to shore.
And Kennedy putting cowboys on the moon.

The water is so dark it makes a mirror.

When things get doubled, things get cut in two.
To cut a thing in two's to break in half.
And Kennedy putting cowboys on the moon.

Along the low length of the pilot boat
lie stove and steamer, linen and bedrail,
all of it spelled out just like entrails.
And Kennedy putting cowboys on the moon.

Look ahead. Look back. Look back, your twin
waiting for you at the water's edge.

There's never enough room for everything.
And Kennedy putting cowboys on the moon.
And separating atoms at the hip.

Lay a head aside the rouse and dream.
The anti-house goes splintered in your wake,
and Kennedy putting cowboys on the moon.

Patrick O'Reilly is a poet and critic who lives in Montréal.

He served as editor for *City Series: Number 6 - Montreal*
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