



Photograph by author.

Christopher Bernard

The Great Wing of Alcatraz

big as a whale
broken from a vast body
breaking up, like a melting ice field

or a splintered shard from a hill
snapped off by a gigantic potter's hand
then laid carefully inside a box
on a prison isle of birds

the steel bones fingers
opening from a half-sleeping hand

the afternoon shining through it

the tremendous wing

a paralyzed dream of flight
in a grave shoveled by the sun

for Ai Weiwei

Christopher Bernard is co-editor of *Caveat Lector*. His poems can be found at his poetry blog, "The Bog of St. Philinte." His novel *Voyage to a Phantom City* will be published by Regent Press in the fall of 2015.