

I am so impressed

Shilo Previti

Shilo Virginia Previti was born near the marshy outskirts of noirish Atlantic City, NJ, and raised in a cedar bog during a natural Pygmy Pines wildfire deep in the Pinelands reserve. They have held various jobs on the east coast, including teaching English in county jails, assisting with writing workshops for Murphy Writing, and moonlighting as a waitress & a newspaper deliveryman, but they have recently moved away from the sea to complete an M.A. in English at UND.

by the population density of cars
 vying for citizenship
 in the Black Hills
 national park
 parking lots
 following directives to rush
 more hurry up
 let's go and
 wait

because every one of these cars
 is a good
 American
 even if some are foreign-made

because they are
 participating
 in our
 beautiful
 backdrop
 stolen landscape

manifesting their destinies
queuing up in neat columns
desperate to get closest to
the ticketing office toilets
and concessions stands of
this outdoor portrait gallery

cutting their teeth
exploring
a New World
of curated wilderness—
come see it before it's gone
and better not forget to take a picture—
down carved paths of
founding foreheads

so it's a good thing they expanded
that parking lot—
did you know park land
is the crown jewel of
America the beautiful,
America of the beautiful
asphalt—
in the name of progress
a nature conservation
convenience campaign

or this wouldn't be
what I see
(see that fresh-air so hard
it steals the breath
right out of you)
at Six Grandfathers.

America
aren't you proud?