The Canyon Wall

Dawn on the canyon wall like a zone-tailed hawk, I painted my eyelids with clay from the riverbank, sage and water fresh to the sweat on the body of a horse, light sounds the mane braids as her arched neck shakes at the day, the droplets paint the arid plain with red sun. Thistle clasps the bridle bells to rock and ash, a broken chant glorifies the animal tongue.

John Swain lives in Louisville, Kentucky. Over the Silver Maple is his most recent chapbook.

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