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Perception

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Perception

If my life's a mere blink of the eye,
what's there to contemplate in yours?

— Mei Yao-Ch-en

A gray fox falls through river ice and drowns,
stiff corpse floating to an eddy where the unreliable
ice that took the fox's life forms around its head
and body. Only ears prick above the slab
which holds the shape of former suffering,
and we look down in disbelief, our own feet unsure
of what bears them up.

Todd Davis

TODD DAVIS, a frequent contributor to *Appalachia* over the past decade, is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *Winterkill* (2016) and *In the Kingdom of the Ditch* (2013), both published by Michigan State University Press. He teaches environmental studies at Pennsylvania State University's Altoona College.