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## On Asher Brown Durand's Kindred Spirits (1849)

Paul Weidknecht

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**On Asher Brown Durand's  
*Kindred Spirits* (1849)**

Oil on canvas, an interpretation  
Of the Creator's hand by human heart.  
Summer foliage full, bending trees frame  
Clove of the Catskills and Kaaterskill Falls.  
Two scenes blended into one; limbs arching,  
Shading, pointing across to greater cliffs,  
As cascade trace divides the wooded cleft.  
A journey awaiting another day.  
One bird content to fly within the gorge,  
Another looks on from a lower branch,  
While still a third sails on higher currents,  
Gliding to far mountains, hazy and blue.  
The two figures, central, but not centered:  
William Cullen Bryant and Thomas Cole.  
Poet and painter, paper and canvas,  
Realize their callings according to gift,  
Bearing witness to earth of cats' rivers.  
Standing on the rock ledge, cantilevered  
Over trout stream winding thin through the glen.  
Lowering afternoon sun on their backs,  
The shadows long across the flat stone perch  
Darken broken trees; dusk to claim its time.  
Contemplating new art, soon homeward bound,  
Knowing the valley gives up its light first.

*Paul Weidknecht*

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PAUL WEIDKNECHT'S work has appeared most recently in *Philadelphia Stories*, *Structo* (UK), and *The Binnacle*. Previous story publications include *Rosebud*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Los Angeles Review*. He lives in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, where he has completed a short-story collection.

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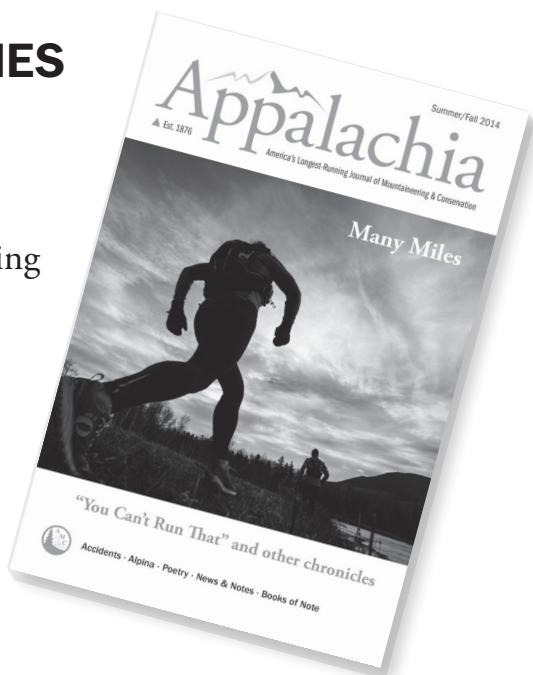
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