

Ethel Rackin

Grandfather Clock

Walking around like this
a good book in my hands
the dead letter office
E.D.'s envelope poems
my organs—mostly—intact
we are all political now
says a man with a conscience—
not my president—
ties for things like this
fruit stands in the rain
enlarged hearts

Ruse

You would make up some story
each of us would come close
to repeating
between headlines—
an ocean of lies—really—
close to out of luck
for those of us
left standing

Deepwater Horizon

It's easy to see
what stands between us—
me and the orange sun—
for who owns the sun
who owns the sea
well—in a sense BP
does—the company
I mean country

A Poet Visits

as glamorous
as rain—right
as rain—you think
in all the different
ways—where are
my socks—where
is that gloss I used
to wear



Ethel Rackin is the author of three books of poetry: *The Forever Notes* (Parlor Press, 2013); *Go On* (Parlor Press, 2016); and *Evening* (Furniture Press, 2017). Her collaborative lyric sequence, "Soledad," written with Elizabeth Savage, was awarded the Thomas Merton Prize for Poetry of the Sacred by Elizabeth Robinson, and another collaborative sequence, "Silent e," is included in *They Said: A Multi-Genre Anthology of Collaborative Writing* (Black Lawrence Press, 2018). Her work has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Court Green*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Jacket2*, *Kenyon Review*, *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, *Volt*, and other journals. A MacDowell fellow, she has taught at Penn State Brandywine, Haverford College, and Bucks County Community College in Pennsylvania, where she is a professor of English.