



TERRI ROLLAND

Three Earths, 2015

Acrylic and clay paint, 28 x 8 x 3/4 in

COURTESY THE ARTIST

DANE CERVINE

Earth Is a Fickle Dancer

At the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco,
there is a fluid map of the world
where one can spin the silver toggle
with a finger, watch familiar continents
swim like fish round a globe
I thought reliable.

Once, a single vast ocean
we now call Panthalassa
surrounded the supercontinent Pangaea
in the southern hemisphere,
this restless Earth always moving,
tectonic plates cavorting:
the Americas thrown from Africa,
India a leaping dancer thrust
at the immovable body of the Himalayas,
the shifting floor between California
and the Appalachians flooded
with new seas.

Inch the dial one million years,
not much changes—a new isthmus here,
a new mountain there. But spin
the silver disk like the six-year-old
who muscles his way in between
my torso and the luminous map
saying, *Let me see! Let me see!*
and the world reveals itself
as the flamenco dancer it is:
the hem of her dress bunched
in hand like the Alps,
toe of her boot spinning
my leaden feet nimble,
oceans flooding into the breach
of Gibraltar with one blink
of her Mediterranean eyes.

Dane Cervine's new poetry book is entitled *Kung Fu of the Dark Father*. Previous books include *How Therapists Dance* (2013) and *The Jeweled Net of Indra* (2007)—all from Plain View Press. His poems have won or been finalists for awards from Adrienne Rich, Tony Hoagland, *Atlanta Review* and *Caesura*, and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His work appears in a diverse range of publications, including the *Sun*, the *Hudson Review*, *Poetry Flash*, *Catamaran Literary Reader*, *Sycamore Review*, and *Pedestal Magazine*, anthologies, short film, animation, newspapers, and a fine press broadside of his poem "Clay Feet" by Middle Earth Editions.