

SAMANTHA SIMPSON

Saga 2 (detail), 2018
Ink and watercolor on paper, 92 x 51 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

FRANK PAINO

Rapture

*And he will send his angels with a loud
trumpet call, and they will gather his
elect from the four winds, from one
end of the heavens to the other.*

—Matthew 24:31

after the last unyoked plane
has dragged its terrible plume
beyond the horizon
and the last car
its wheel unhanded
has coasted to standstill or twisted
its frame to a wreath of fire

after the last father has tossed
a laughing son or daughter skyward
and been left empty-
handed on the downside

after the last note of the last hymn
has sung itself into infinity
beneath the arched and worn
doors of worship's still houses
and the sky's grievous wound
has been stitched
like mouths of the dead

those of us who had nothing to pray for
nor hunger for taking leave
will bend to gather our strange harvest
the vacant hoops of wedding bands
the creased pants and bright dresses
left in mused heaps where they hollowed

the days will still go from gold to gold
the magnolia will shed its pink and cream
in the uptick breeze
the sparrows will scavenge thread
from torn armchairs in dark homes
whose curtains will frazzle
in their windows' perpetual gape

nights
we'll lie down to regard
the luminous breadth of the stars
which has always been plenty
which has always been more than enough

Frank Paino was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and earned an MFA from Vermont College. His poems have appeared in a variety of literary publications, including *Crab Orchard Review*, *North American Review*, *World Literature Today*, the *Briar Cliff Review*, *Lake Effect*, and the anthology *The Face of Poetry*. He has been the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, the Cleveland Arts Prize for Literature, and a 2016 Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council. His third book, *Obscura*, is forthcoming from Orison Books in April 2020.