



PROJECT MUSE®

## Neck of the World

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## GRACKLES

The day is fastened  
around the bronze irises  
of the grackles as they flash  
en masse through the yard.

An airplane's dumb echo  
passes over, buzz seeping  
through clouds. A small toy  
in my gut is coming apart,  
the grass pounding fresh  
spikes at the sky. One grackle  
in the colony loosens  
a heavy worm from the earth  
leaving a dark inlet  
in its place. So these  
are the shy, unlit mines  
of the body's abiding.