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The Arrangement of Holes and Hills

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Award Name: Andrea Saunders Gereighty Award

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The Arrangement of Holes and Hills

MEGAN MCHUGH

Andrea Saunders Gereighty / Academy of American Poets Poetry Award 2011

Winner

Judged by: Ron Smith

Why hold onto all that? And I said,
Where can I put it down?
She shifted to a question about airports.
– Anne Carson, *The Glass Essay*

i.

Once we create something,
anything, in this world, there is
the problem of where to put it.

ii.

My fag friends sit around the bar
trying to figure out where one can take a date
on a layover in the Atlanta airport.
All excited, as if nearly completing
a crossword, they say,

ellipsis

It'll take too long if you bring him to the park across
the street. Now the bathrooms, they're too well lit.
Not the food court either... Wait! Wait!
The parking garage stairwell!

iii.

We all make holes; we all make hills.

But how do you find the absence to carve out in
the first place?

Just as you find a hopscotch court
on a bare sidewalk, a girlfriend
in an old roommate.

Then where do you put what was
before the hole?

Well that is up to you.
Maybe next to the hole, maybe
just keep it on the shovel.

iv.

You have just an hour's worth of desire
traveling from Tampa to New York.
Where does it go after it sneaks down
a cold, gray corridor, after your dick
unswells, and there's more room in your pants?

You make it
look so easy.

But what of us, the unduly chaste, stuck
with our bulging memories?
Some of us have to hold onto it.