

FIGHTING THE WIND

poem by Teresa Breeden



Image: "Here I Go" by Elizabeth Hlookoff. "Fighting the Wind" was written by Teresa Breeden for *Rattle*'s Ekphrastic Challenge, July 2023, and selected as the Artist's Choice.

The trick is not to.
Not to struggle, thrusting
the anvil of your

body against the
gale, not to compete, but to
sway and bend, threading

the edge of the air,
welcoming dishevelment.
Who is in charge of

corralling the squall
into meager breezes, these
air conditioned spaces?

Who is bold enough
to slam open the windows
let the shouting in?

You want to be brave.
But you yearn also to curl
beneath the blanket

of wind, a small fold,
your breath a small sigh beneath
the world's loud exhale

and also
to be the window
it shoves into and through, a
portal for the sky.

The wind reminds you
of what you can be, tousled
dismantled,
a being

that can continually
be remade.