

# FAULT LINES

poem by Margaret Malochleb



To negotiate the terrain  
of devotion's darker  
questions, we set out  
in search of knowledge  
buried inside the mountain.  
Together we climbed  
the treacherous path  
littered with thistle,  
bindweed, cheatgrass.  
Held out our hands  
to pull each other up  
to the next outcropping.  
And as we tended  
our hunger, our thirst,  
our need for rest,  
the mountain watched,  
held its breath  
and waited for us  
to look down and see  
that the unwritten history  
inside every living thing  
is a borderless boundary  
that can never be breached.

Image: "Ballet Above the Bay" by René Bohnen. "Fault Lines" was written by Margaret Malochleb for *Rattle's* Ekphrastic Challenge, October 2022, and selected as the Artist's Choice.