

# MAP TO THE MOON

*Matthew Murrey*



Painting by Meghan Tutolo. "Map to the Moon" was written by Matthew Murrey for *Rattle's* Ekphrastic Challenge, November 2015, and selected by Tutolo as the Artist's Choice winner.

That is the dream I had  
when I was stuck in that little town,  
wishfully watching planes in the sky,  
thumbing the atlas all the time.

I dreamed I'd go to the purple  
city and find you. I believed  
that lights would turn on  
in the tall buildings to welcome me.

And I did go,  
though I took an overnight train  
that rolled in after sunrise and took me  
past the stadium and brick warehouses  
and apartments with shades drawn.

And there was a river  
and a bridge, and at night a yellow  
brilliance at the center which I wanted  
as a moth wants the light  
it flings itself at over and over.  
And you were there,  
which is why memory paints it  
so lovely, so purple, so speckled—  
even prettier than it really was—

and tells a little lie about how young  
the moon was, when everybody  
knows it's older than dirt  
and that love is the youngster.  
That was decades ago,  
but I remember falling  
like it was yesterday. So yes,  
the night and moon were young,  
and my heart waxed full.

