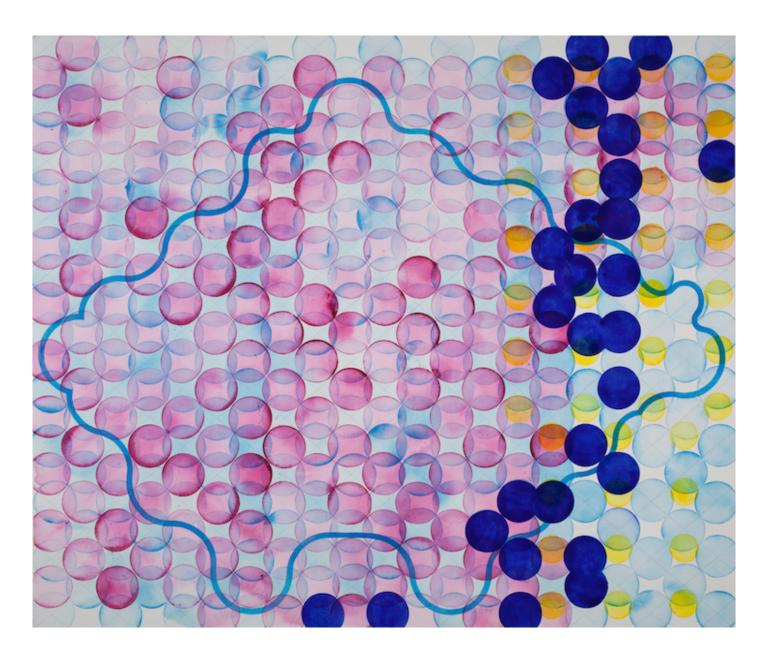
## **Crazy Quilt** [1]

March 30, 2021 <u>Featured Poetry</u> [2] <u>Illness</u> [3] <u>Creative Fire</u> [4]

# **Poetry by Madeleine Mysko**



### **Crazy Quilt**

To keep from crazy then—from cracked,

#### **Crazy Quilt**

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from *broken*—is this the work? To make something from the desires both to hold and to be held (as in *together*, as in *of a piece*)?

Think of *crazy quilt*: the hand holding the remnants, the hand stitching, piecing, making—out of thrift, perhaps, but also, it seems to me now, out of love.

Crazy quilt: gesture that yearns in the making, that works toward warmth, a comforter to stuff with straw or, better, with eider down to lay upon the child asleep in the loft beneath the low roof, while beyond the dormer window snow has blanketed the fields and, along the fence, the beds of lilies.

You know the fabric by heart—patterned calico, summer flowers in yellow and pink and lavender, scarlet leaves, snowflakes against indigo blue, tiny stars between the patchwork seams.

To keep from crazy then: poetry as sturdy thread, stitching forward and back, securing itself, somehow.

#### **Art Information**

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Madeleine Mysko is the author of two novels, *Bringing Vincent Home* and *Stone Harbor Bound*, and a poetry collection, *Crucial Blue* (Cherry Grove Collections, 2019). With three other Maryland poets,

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she is also the author of *In the Margins: A Conversation in Poetry*. She is a recipient of individual artist awards in both poetry and fiction from the State of Maryland. Presently she serves as coordinating editor of the "Reflections" column for *American Journal of Nursing*, and teaches writing part-time at Goucher College.

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