

## *Ode to Everything Ordinary*

MARY CHRISTINE DELEA

Praise the #2 pencil                      colored yellow for China  
the easy-to-pronounce Chardonnay                      with its natural sugars  
the park bench shaded by maple    the Pez dispenser

Praise the ferry from                      Long Island                      to Connecticut  
forcing the car through the landscape of wine, potatoes, ducks  
almost gone                      almost entirely                      a memory

Praise the subway token                      double pane window  
turtleneck sweater                      found at Goodwill  
in colors you crave

Praise the cat                      purring himself                      to sleep  
next to your head                      on stormy nights                      when  
your husband is out of town                      and the house  
still new                      still unfamiliar                      makes noises  
you cannot decipher but are sure    you saw  
in that cop show                      you watched on TV

Praise the goat            the stick shift            the washing machine  
the bobbin winder            old highways still maintained  
an old brick fireplace            your mother's voice  
on the other side of the phone not sounding too old or frail  
your nephew            who likes to look at bugs

Praise the cane            the machine that made it  
the people who work the factory            the cane inventor  
the fact that you still have legs

some don't

Praise the morning            if need be            the quilt  
the bed            whatever it takes to get up  
get moving            start to walk  
or whatever what you do can be called  
Praise that you woke up