Nikki Marzolf

Final Draft

A Night on the Water

(After Starry Night over the Rhone by Vincent van Gogh)

Glistening stars in the sky,

the lights of the city reflect on the water,

gentle rocks of the boats on the river.

Looking through a telescope

the stars fall in and out frame,

as though the boat is the last rock in the galaxy

and it is pushing and pulling the stars

with each gentle movement.

The motion making all the stars appear to be shooting, flying

across the sky in the eye of the telescope.

The city lights dulling the lesser stars,

casting the remaining into stark relief

against the murky blank slate of the night heavens.

Sighing, I turn from the immortal splendor of the stars.

Time to return to life

and leave the speckles in the sky

until next time. I know they will be waiting.