

## MICHAEL KEENAN “The Asylum Garden”

someone thinks we are stealing the spring from

    this lilac tree—

we are tearing at the blossoms, this much is—

    we are tearing at them and  
                    they dissolve  
    in our hands

I reached for them once when I found them  
again, beneath everything else and instead of everything  
else I lifted them, the blossoms and

    drew one dead bird on a sheet of black paper and

    wailed with the spiders and bitter umbrellas

**Michael Keenan** received his MFA in Literary Arts from Brown University. His first chapbook, *Two Girls*, was published by Say No Press in 2009, and his first book, *Translations On Waking In An Italian Cemetery*, was released by A-Minor Press in June of 2014. He was nominated for a Puschart Prize in 2011 and was chosen by C.D. Wright to be featured in the PEN Poetry Series. His writing has appeared in *Verse Daily*, *Fence*, *Posit*, *Chronopolis*, *Alice Blue Review*, *Shampoo*, *NYQ Reviews*, *Paul Revere’s Horse*, *Caketrain*, *A-Minor Magazine*, *Interlupture*, *Arsenic Lobster*, *Word For/Word*, and *Flag + Void*, among others, and is forthcoming in *Poetry International*. Michael currently talks to people at Columbia University and the New School.