

ZACH SAVICH

*On a Pose of Virgil's*

Near its peak, the mountain  
requires nearly no  
effort to climb. There is no sky behind the flags,  
barges of pretty silt. Some wrestlers  
oil themselves to prevent a grip, others rub grit to their skin  
to help it. In the cartoon,  
Orpheus puts glasses  
on the back  
of his head and walks in reverse. The pastor's white  
collar is a foam neck brace. I am sorry to hear,  
this morning, as I can't see  
the mug top through  
the pouring steam, that there is nothing new  
in philosophy: I meant to tell you  
a story but cannot keep myself interested  
long enough to describe  
the ski lifts exactly. I can never remember jokes, but there were  
twenty-  
four flavors of syrup for  
the soft-serve, as though an entire day  
of ice cream were possible, and a man near the summit  
holding his palms fast to  
the thistles, waiting  
for dew to come so he could wash.