

University of Gloucestershire

Nigel McLoughlin

Prose poems, written by members of the Prose Poetry Project, November 2014 to July 2017, compiled by the editors

Biographical note:

Nigel McLoughlin is Professor of Creativity and Poetics at the University of Gloucestershire. He is a prize-winning Northern Irish poet with five collections of poetry in print – including *Disonnances* (bluechrome, 2007) and *Chora: New and Selected Poems* (Templar, 2009).

Water-star moves to the rhythm of a boat on a new-moon tide. Summer slices its way over the Atlantic to the shore. What sun there is slowly works its way across one side of my face as I stand fishing. I like the movement and the stasis of it, the alternating cast and return breathing a line across the channel, the tide too lazy to come back from the slack. I measure afternoon and evening by the dull punctuations of the fish that roll or splash just a little too far out. All the gulls have deserted me for other silences that require breaking; the seal turns its back and swims away. Venus and Jupiter twin themselves somewhere out on the horizon. I am content that every star should find its own declension.

(from *Pulse* 2016)