The Rose Dorothea

TOMMYE BLOUNT

Provincetown Public Library

A ship gets shelved among the quiet stacks—
this is no metaphor but a vehicle
without a tenor and just over yonder, noting
the sweat hours it took, a photo for each phase
in the construction, man hours documented
along the flight down to the big schooner
bottled in the building—when one has no room,
when one finds the space, when one supposes
a one in this fool's math, this know-nothing
know-how to navigate the not-know,
these quipu lines knotted
for an any-who. Bottled, carried over, away—
shut up, fine, I'll write it: a poem is a big schooner,
will it harm the craft to put in so plainly?

About the author

Tommye Blount is the author of the chapbook What Are We Not For (Bull City Press) and the full-length collection of poetry Fantasia for the Man in Blue (Four Way Books)—which was finalist for: the National Book Award, the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry, the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and others. He is the recipient of commendations, fellowships, and grants from: the Whiting Foundation, Cave Canem, Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Kresge Arts in Detroit, and the Aninstantia Foundation. Just a few miles shy of his hometown in Detroit, Tommye now lives in Novi, Michigan.