

Peter E. Murphy

ERASED

I fell in a manhole in Central Park and woke up in a gutter in Wales.
I didn't know there was a manhole in Central Park.
Because it was a manhole, I believed I was a man.

A man left Wales to build a city in Ukraine and gave it his name.
After the Revolution Hughesovka became Stalino.
After Khrushchev Stalino became Donetsk.

In Ohio a boy shot a BB gun at the last passenger pigeon.
In Ukraine a man shot a rocket as a passenger plane.
Every falling thing leaves a hole in the sky.

A man left a hole in his family when he left his family in Wales.
My mother believed that man was her father.
Born in shame, she never knew her real name.

My mother fell in a hole she could not climb out of.
Why does she still appear in my sober-sweet dreams?
Why do I believe she will say something that will change my life?

Someone airbrushed Wales off the official European map.
Instead of a hole, a bloated Irish Sea

where Wales ought to be.