

## JACK KRISTIANSEN

### **Aloft**

after Paul Klee's Part of G, 1927

while the residents dreamed  
the neighborhood has floated loose  
of its foundations

one smokestack, one lamppost  
and five flagpoles remain plumb  
and all the flags  
along with most of the pennants  
agree which way  
the headwind blows

but one of the streets has buckled  
and now all of them  
break off to nowhere

the full moon hangs  
too low in the heavens  
for the hour to read  
only four in the morning

the clock tower tilts  
towards toppling into the missing square  
ignoring airsick stomachs

a few of the early risers  
may dare totter out  
on to what little pavement  
has ascended with them

they'll have to steady each other  
while they argue  
whether they're fated to drift  
without provisions or plumbing  
or they can master the mechanics  
of settling back down