More Civilized Folk

In these three stanzas, woven into a landscape, the artists explore the intersections and interactions of various ecologies and our human responses to the high desert environments where we reside.

Folio; woodcut, polymer plate relief, lithography

Artist’s Biography
Mark received the B.F.A. degree from the University of Kansas in 1986 and was awarded the M.F.A. degree in Printmaking from Indiana University in 1990. He resides in the windy solitude of Laramie, Wyoming where he teaches printmaking at the University of Wyoming and exhibits nationally and internationally. An exploration of “wild” and “domestic” through human-equine interactions and a consideration of tumbleweeds informs his most recent work in drawing and printmaking processes.

Writer’s Biography
Zach Hively writes poetry, music, and creative nonfiction. He is the author of the poetry books Wild Expectations and Desert Apocrypha, and the forthcoming humorous essay collection Call Me Zach Hively Because That Is My Name. He is the founder and publisher of Casa Urraca Press. His music with Oxygen on Embers is available on vinyl, CD, and wherever you stream your music. He lives near Abiquiu, New Mexico.
Creature of habit, inhabitant
beast on land that doesn’t need me
doesn’t feed me — I eat bread off trucks
stomp scars in the crust, all the while
hope hard to shrink my mark like a good boy

Who am I to think I must tread lightly?
The goal among those of us who feel
we self-appointed stooges of the campsite rule
hold in our breath and hover over the dirt
imagine the earth could forget we exist

Sometimes I wonder if my bones remember
how to swing from trees until, until, until
my feet turn to rocks and my arms to branches
and my senses slip together into other shapes
and more civilized folk can’t tell the difference