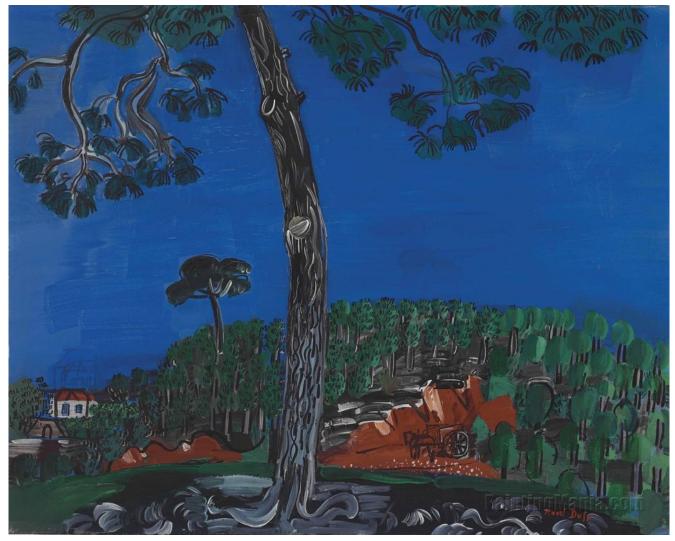
Stand (and More)

by Amrita Skye Blaine (April 2025)



The Pine/Le Pin (Raoul Dufy, 1927)

stand

little things hide the subtle gesture a downward glance shift away and I might miss it read the present stay close in don't scuttle or slide every movement, each breath, informs, ignites awakening or grace

stand in the face of fear pay close attention don't be timid so, we meet again then walk on

the ordinary magic of days

a maple leaf lets
go, drifts
crimson harvest
turning
up, around, under
slow dancing
its way to the ground

it touches
shifts, finally rests
a covering of
autumn tones
leisurely layering
one by one

fingers beg me

pick it up take

it home but what is

this ache to own?

leaning on a tree

waiting, watching, two

more leaves sail

twist, land,

relaxing my fingers

I leave it

alone

stroll toward home

moist

scent rises from
wet ground I draw
it in, grateful for damp,
for the earthy
tang tethering me
here to the planet
simple joys
crows converse high
above, squirrels dart
and chatter
each day colors change
and I, entranced,
am willing to bear with
for longer

when I forget

that the whole world is holy, and tighten my circle of concern this summer, no monarchs on the fuchsia, or goldfinch pecking sunflower, only half the songbirds I'm used to and gophers are ruling

I need to stroll note redwood frond shadows playing on the fence riotous bush sage's spill of soft purple velour cedar rosettes dropping on the patio glorious autumn everywhere and then I remember

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Amrita Skye Blaine develops themes of aging, disability, and spiritual awakening. Her poems have been accepted by Soul-Lit, Braided Way Magazine, New English Review, The Penwood Review, One Art, and many other literary journals. Her poetry collection every riven thing will be released by Finishing Line Press mid-2025. Her collection on aging, strange grace—the ending season is now available on Amazon.

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