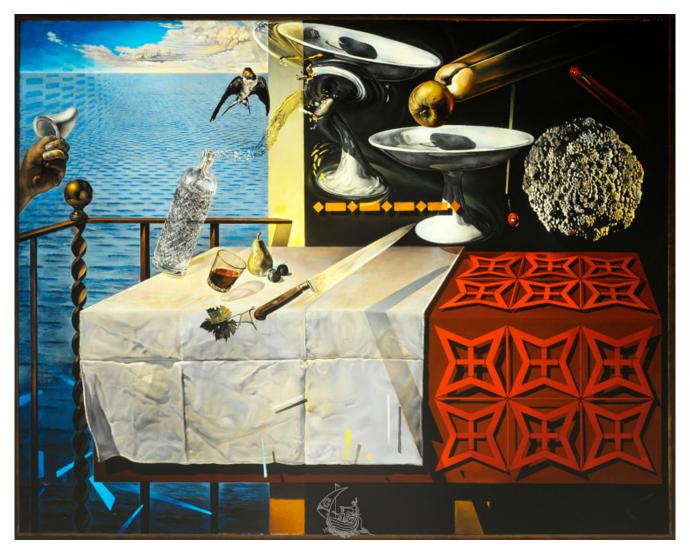
## **Untrue North**



Nature Morte Vivante (Fast-moving Still Life) by Salvadore Dali, 1956

by Peter Dreyer (January 2022)

The pole has shifted—
our world is out of whack.
It's time to set the

compass needles back.

Once in Athens on Kolonaki

Square, I saw Wystan Auden, his face like the mottled prow

of an old ship too long afloat.

I knew where he was coming from—it wasn't hard to see but lacked the nerve to greet

the man; he'd never met me.

Poetry, he said, makes nothing

happen. Now the reverse is true, not much makes poetry happen, everything bad is good for you.

Envoi

Poetry being imagination's primal yeast, rising, it demands a gravitas not confected to season up the Internet's digitized feast-

plaints, even if proven, should be rejected.

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Peter Richard Dreyer is a South African American writer. He is the author of A Beast in View (London: André Deutsch), The Future of Treason (New York: Ballantine), A Gardener Touched with Genius: The Life of Luther Burbank (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan; rev. ed., Berkeley: University of California Press; new, expanded ed., Santa Rosa, CA: Luther Burbank Home & Gardens), Martyrs and Fanatics: South Africa and Human Destiny (New York: Simon & Schuster; London: Secker & Warburg), and most recently the novel Isacq (Charlottesville, VA: Hardware River Press, 2017).

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