

Francis Opila

## High Tide Line / Unresolved

Color sings off the ocean—  
sunlight plays azure,  
aquamarine, surf blue  
scattered by gales  
shattered by storms  
from across the Pacific  
China, Viet Nam, the Philippines  
to Oregon breakers  
faded reds, yellow, blue,  
veins of magenta, cyan,  
plastic bits, kaleidoscope  
of broken jugs, torn fish nets,  
six-pack rings, straws, bottles,  
Crystal Geyser, Coca Cola,  
Nestle, Unilever, PepsiCo,  
petroleum, pelagic trash,  
polyethylene, polypropylene,  
polyvinyl chloride, polystyrene,  
dumped into streams,  
carried by surging rivers—  
Yangtze, Mekong, Ganges,  
thrown overboard off ships,  
flammable, melted,  
half-lives of millennia,  
washed by deep rivers, sand, salt,  
displacers of plankton, squid, krill,  
coated with algae like bait,  
swallowed by albatross,  
shearwaters, petrels,

stomachs ruptured,  
birds starved, perished,  
sea turtles snared,  
plastic shards, fibers,  
fragments, microbeads,  
nanoplastic soup,  
Pacific gyre escapees,  
carried on swells,  
pushed by waves,  
pulled by tides,  
out onto the sand,  
Oregon north coast beach,  
high tide line,  
rotting kelp,  
plastic bits, drowned,  
broken, blanched,  
forever adrift.