Cloud Fishing

By Phillis Levin

To fish from a cloud in the sky
   You must find a comfortable spot,
   Spend a day looking down
   Patiently, clear-sighted.

Peer at your ceiling:
   Where a light dangles, hook & line
   Could be slipping through.

Under the hull of a boat
   A fish will see things this way,

Looking up while swimming by —

A wavering pole’s refraction
   Catching its eye.

What will you catch?
   With what sort of bait?
   Take care or you’ll catch yourself,

A fish might say,
   As inescapable skeins of shadow
   Scatter a net
   Over the face of the deep.

Source: Poetry (February 2016)