westerly

the best in writing from the West
westerly

Volume 39.2 | November 2014

Published by the University of Western Australia, Australia

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Design: Ron graphic design

Printed by the University of Western Australia
Front cover: Else Blumern, Rottnest Lighthouse and salt lakes, 1940, oil on board, 46.5 x 54.9 cm, The University of Western Australia Art Collection. Photograph: Bo Wong

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Westerly is published financially with assistance from the State Government of WA by an investment in this project through the Department of Culture and the Arts and from the Literature Board of the Australia Council. The opinions expressed in Westerly are those of individual contributors and not of the Editors or Editorial Advisors.
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Squirrel

Paul Hetherington

Each hair in the brush
is a thought in the squirrel;
each brushstroke a bound
into trees where nuts
are stored for winter.
Each deposit of paint
is a month or long year
when the squirrel has felt
the rain on its nose;
winds rattle leaves
and the storehouse of being
empties a little.
The painting thinks
with an animal's instinct;
wakes at night
with squirrel eyes;
searches long vistas
of grassland and forest,
sniffs at air
for what might arrive.