

**FINALIST, 2016 JAMES APPLEWHITE POETRY PRIZE****BY PRISCILLA MELCHIOR***Summer Dawn*

The sun, still searching for its magenta mask,  
 hasn't climbed from beneath the Outer Banks,  
 but word of its coming has chased the dark to gray  
 and Currituck is still slick water.  
 Silence, save crickets and chattering birds, hangs like drifting fog

until the distant whine.  
 Soon there is another  
 and another.  
 Now a chorus of outboards sings across the glassy surface  
 skimming off to the distant Narrows.

We are still abed these mornings, but we hear them,  
 fishermen in their wooden boats out to claim another day.  
 Drowsily, we follow their song  
 until it fades to the far off  
 and lulls us back to the cool of a linen pillow  
 and the sleep of an August dawn.



COURTESY OF CITY ART GALLERY

*Dock and Sky* (oil on canvas, 9x11) by Clyde Edgerton

**PRISCILLA MELCHIOR** grew up in Wilson, NC, graduated from North Carolina State University, and earned a master's degree from Boston College. She is a retired journalist, former Senior Associate Editor of *The Daily Reflector* of Greenville, NC, and has two grown sons. She lives in Highland County, VA.

Read about the artist, **CLYDE EDGERTON**, in the preceding interview. See more of his work at City Art Gallery in Greenville, NC ([www.cityartgreenville.com](http://www.cityartgreenville.com)).