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## I am so impressed

Shilo Previti

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## I am so impressed

### Shilo Previti

*Shilo Virginia Previti was born near the marshy outskirts of noirish Atlantic City, NJ, and raised in a cedar bog during a natural Pygmy Pines wildfire deep in the Pinelands reserve. They have held various jobs on the east coast, including teaching English in county jails, assisting with writing workshops for Murphy Writing, and moonlighting as a waitress & a newspaper deliveryman, but they have recently moved away from the sea to complete an M.A. in English at UND.*

by the population density of cars  
vying for citizenship  
in the Black Hills  
    national park  
parking lots  
following directives to rush  
more hurry up  
    let's go and  
    wait

because every one of these cars  
    is a good  
    American  
even if some are foreign-made

because they are  
    participating  
        in our  
        beautiful  
        backdrop  
    *stolen* landscape

manifesting their destinies  
queuing up in neat columns  
desperate to get closest to  
the ticketing office toilets  
and concessions stands of  
this outdoor portrait gallery

cutting their teeth  
exploring  
a New World  
of curated wilderness—  
come see it before it's gone  
and better not forget to take a picture—  
down carved paths of  
founding foreheads

so it's a good thing they expanded  
that parking lot—  
did you know park land  
is the crown jewel of  
America the beautiful,  
America of the beautiful  
asphalt—  
in the name of progress  
a nature conservation  
convenience campaign

or this wouldn't be  
what I see  
(see that fresh-air so hard  
it steals the breath  
right out of you)  
at Six Grandfathers.

America  
aren't you proud?