

## a good worker

another man in a box  
another empty boat  
    oars up  
    all alone  
in the middle of a bone-dry lakebed.

walking endless circles in  
    false personality wonderland  
so used to saying I'm okay  
    when I'm not  
    that I don't even know  
who's saying it  
anymore.

rotten fruit hanging from a  
    dying tree  
heart-smashed free-for-all  
headaches at 4 AM  
fallen off the path again  
    into another pile of  
    funhouse mirrors.

a good worker  
a team player  
a shit shoveler  
money in the bank.

a draft animal  
    yoked and lashed  
    blind and bloated  
poor dumb beast pulling a wagon  
    from here to there  
    all its life  
barely conscious  
    trudging along  
    one foot in front of the other.

dreaming of freedom  
    knee deep  
    in a field of mud  
watching my clock  
    wind down.