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## The Blank Page

Gregory J. Hobbs

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### TRAVELING THROUGH A BRAIDED CHANNEL

Bring together water birds and judges  
have them settle into Jackson Hole  
in the great WYO

For the purpose of understanding  
how the West's habitat backbone  
transfigured by the jagged Tetons  
is formed of adjoining watersheds

Call to order voices of community  
you will hear—  
do you hear?  
strings, chords, synchronicity—

Every tributary has a source  
makes a contribution  
travels through a braided channel  
no island can be without surrounding waters  
shifting its shaping potential.

The Divided West  
a series of islands  
composes the mainland West  
west of the 100th Meridian

We the citizens of the West  
a unique part  
of a unique world  
of a unique universe.

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Line your colors up  
then begin—  
paper rises up to meet  
                  your reflections—  
let blend the bolds of  
your conception

Watercourses  
will always bend you to directions  
                  never intended.