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## Tray with Twigs

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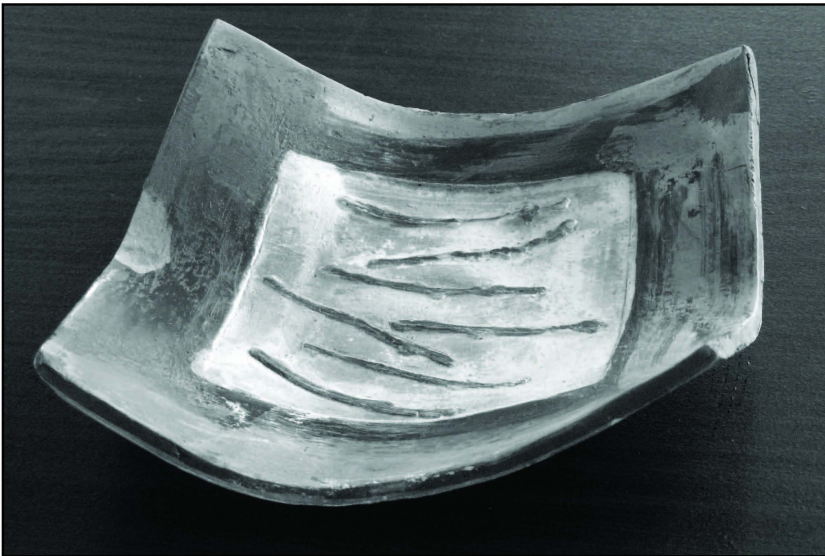
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the dusky air / Homewards” (69-70). In his delight, the poet blesses the bird and prays that it may give that blessing to “gentle-hearted Charles,” who in his suffering has cultivated that deep desire for and profound appreciation of the gifts of nature’s beauty. Thus, as expressed by the flight of the bird from one man to the other, he and his friend, though physically separated, are profoundly connected by their mutual appreciation of nature. The poem concludes by describing the spiritual unity of the two friends in their mutual delight: the poet hopes that the humble “creeking” song of the bird will be received generously and joyfully by Charles, “to whom / No sound is dissonant which tells of Life” (75-76), and perhaps is also hopes that his own words will be similarly received.

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**Bethany Pederson**  
*Tray with Twigs*  
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