

DON RUSS

## *Camera Obscura*

*Under the Rafters of an Abandoned Barn*

Life goes on, I know. I hear it:  
cars quiet on a distant road, an intermittent  
music from some neighbor's radio.

But this is different. It's a picture  
of the world outside, the world above us — far  
above — without sounds or the smell

of dirt below our hiding place.  
Sunshine through a nail hole turns everything  
around — even clouds, should we check.

But look higher: with enough sky about  
there's no direction, no up or down or upside-  
down, and Heaven

is emptied silent  
that I might touch your skin, might know  
our dust perfected now.

Don Russ is author of *Dream Driving* (Kennesaw State University Press, 2007) and *Adam's Nap* (Billy Goat Press, 2005 ). He publishes regularly and widely in literary magazines, and his "Girl with Gerbil," which had appeared in *The Cincinnati Review*, was included in *Best American Poetry 2012*.