

**Rose Mallow Pink**

primitive among the pinks  
conical flowers droop flush  
below the images of one island  
and another  
in the fen waters

how clarity fades  
when the water is the sky  
answering its own summons

a sly painter brushed hairs  
onto the water

goat tufts, weeds  
form indicative skull bone —  
trees, bones and all  
sink to become  
primitive among the pinks

— *Bruce Iserman*