Ishkwaa gaa ningaabikide
After the minerals melted

mikwaamiikaa ajina mii dash
ice reigned for a while and then

daashkikwadin, bagonezigwaa
cracks and holes appeared

ziibiins ani ziibi ziibiskaaj
streams became a river casually

ziigijiwan ziiigwanikemigad
pouring seasons onto the land

wiindigoog zaaginzihkawaawaad gaye
wiindigoos were chased away and

ge-jiibiinwenid mooz-anang
in the blink of a sky-moose’s eye

nagadenindiwagi maadizijig miziwe ziibi.
lives were entwined along the Mississippi.

Niizhosagoons
gemaa
Nisosagoons
Daso-biboonagad
Two
or
Three
Thousand
Years

Poet Margaret Noodin, author of Weweni, is Anishinaabe, teaches at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and edits www.ojibwe.net. Painter and printmaker Meghan Keane is a visiting alumni artist at Brooklyn College’s art department printshop.