

This Messy Life
is often seen as something
we can put in an organizer
alphabetize
number
file in a folder
or a photo album.
But I prefer the desk
littered with paper clips
papers
books, pens, pencils
a coaster that never holds a coffee cup
or an empty bottle
than surrender
to the tyranny of order.
This messy life is never easy
never the happy ending of Hollywood movies
or storybooks for children.
I prefer the more nuanced life
lived fully
at times lived recklessly
with wanderlust
exploring the ragged edges.
This messy life leaves much
to clean up at the end
but what a mess to leave behind
if one has lived.

- John Koetzner