

TRISH CARNEY

Bobcat Bolinas Ridge, 2009
Color pigment print



COURTESY THE ARTIST

ALLISON DELAUER

Habitat

The hot air hugs the freeway
softens asphalt to liquid
By dusk an orange halo
bleaches starlight and moonlight

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You see that girl
who runs up the mountain
barefoot, dressed in a nightgown?
I say, she turns into Bobcat.
You think, Coyote.

The men in the Cadillac won't find her.
You claim, the cops have her cited
spread-eagle in the back of some Mustang.

I say you're lying.
We both know: no one can touch her
not without burning to embers—charred, nothing.

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She cuts past the hedges finds the path to dark waters—
past yucca, past scrub oak, juniper and sage.
She cools her feet while the last
of the poppies wrap into themselves
as they do when night falls—
while we draw our shades.

Allison DeLauer's texts have appeared in *Five Fingers Review*, *Mirage Periodical #7*, *The Throwback*, *burrizophile.com*, and *SFStation.com*, and are forthcoming in the anthology *Our Place: Writings about the Earth*. Her most recent performance collaboration, *Umanità: Book I*, was developed and premiered at Teatro dei Venti in Modena, Italy, in 2013, and is currently on tour. She lives in Oakland, California.