

## ADRIENNE MOMI

*La Laguna II*, 2015  
Gilded monoprint on washi, 18 x 24 in



COURTESY: THE ARTIST

## CAROL V. DAVIS

### Because

Because I cannot leave this body  
I dream I am flying

The air splits, subdivides  
splinters into layers of gray and worn lavender

Voices penetrate as if through fog  
in languages perhaps I never knew

No wonder men choose to be ghosts  
Switch the door from one wall to another

Women no more fragile though a wandering  
hand to the cheek can betray

I return to the monastery in the Pushkin Hills  
the chapel now silent though I fear exposure

Candles bleed light and shadow onto  
cracked icons peering through silver

A young woman sloshes a bucket of water  
her braid a metronome swinging on her spine

Monks with dark beards hurry past  
as if God records how many hours of service

**Carol V. Davis** is the author of *Between Storms* (2012). Twice a Fulbright scholar in Russia, she won the 2007 T.S. Eliot Prize for *Into the Arms of Pushkin: Poems of St. Petersburg*. Her work has been read on NPR and at the Library of Congress and is in the *Bloomsbury Anthology of Contemporary Jewish American Poetry*. She received a 2015 Barbara Deming grant.