

## EMILY SILVER

*Memories and Mirage*, 2010  
watercolor on paper, 72 x 45 in



courtesy: Conrad Wilde gallery

## TERRY MARTIN

### Backyard

Tonight, out this dark view  
from my window, moths  
beat dusty wings against  
the yellow porch light, and  
I'm ten again,  
familiar shapes of childhood  
appearing through the glass.  
Mom's clothesline punctuated  
with wooden pins, Dad's  
charcoal grill on a scuffed table.  
My blue Schwinn Hollywood  
leans against ponderosa pine,  
sister's hula hoop circles a sprinkler.  
A green rubber hose coils  
like a serpent on wet grass.  
In the rock garden, closed buds  
of flowers, still clenched.  
Lilacs holding promise.  
The locked tool shed  
waits for the right combination.  
Above that back porch, moths  
flutter and fling into the fact of lamp.  
Up against it, they cannot understand  
the heat they are drawn to,  
or the light—all they want  
just in front of them.

**Terry Martin**, an English professor at Central Washington University, is the recipient of CWU's Distinguished Professor Teaching Award and the CASE/Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year Award. Her poems, essays, and articles have appeared in over 300 publications, and she has edited both journals and anthologies. She has written three books of poems—*Wishboats* (2000), *The Secret Language of Women* (2006), and *The Light You Find* (forthcoming from Blue Begonia Press in 2014). "Backyard" is the opening poem of her new book.