

**MICHELLE
BITTING**

The Womb
Repaired

Without our doing anything,
the fruit tree dropped its meat in sweet and fluid stanzas, bells landing
in the bright bull's-eyes of our palms. Fancy that, with all the bones
going to rot, the house a witchy broth
of stripped hinges and crooked doorframes
like torn pages of a too-beloved book, its haunted rooms, done flowers
and dark scuffs, floors marked to a dull unfinish. And still
the oranges bearing oceans in a garden overthrown by rebel desert fauna.
Still my love and I nodding off in the afternoon
while the children become adults in the space of an hour, while the dog
howls at a siren screaming down dawn, down
the potholed street we slumber on, our dreams more delicious dissolve
than savvy urban planning, more iron trickled through loam, seed
coat split, igniting the radicle, dream coiled in clouds that flow
and part
as we lounge around waiting for *The Simpsons* to start. After all,
it's Sunday.

Michelle Bitting won the 2018 Fischer Poetry Prize, the 2018 Robert J. DeMott Short Prose Contest, and a fourth collection of poetry, *Broken Kingdom* won the 2018 Catamaran Poetry Prize and was named to *Kirkus Reviews's* Best of Indie 2018. Her third collection is *The Couple Who Fell to Earth* (C & R Press), named to *Kirkus Reviews's* Best Books of 2016. She has poems published in *The American Poetry Review*, *Narrative*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere. Michelle is the Poet Laureate of Pacific Palisades and has won multiple grants from the Optimists Club and *Poets and Writers Magazine* for her teaching work in Los Angeles. In the fall of 2018 she joined the English Department at Loyola Marymount University as a Lecturer in Poetry and Critical Studies in Creative Writing.

LEWIS WATTS

RCA Palm Window, 2018
Archival print, 24 x 16 in



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