

MARGARET CHULA

Song of Gratitude

Love the Kamo River, its waters turned blue
from rinsing the indigo dyes of kimonos.

Love the hummingbirds.

Love the koi who swim like kings
even though, without their glitter,
they'd be only mouth and tail.

Love the katsura tree with its multiple trunks
and heart-shaped leaves.

Admire the anteater and its endurance,
carrying its armor for a lifetime.

Rejoice in the green of a kingfisher's wing
or the deep-purple skin of an eggplant.

Delight in the color of dusk when sun breaks
through the scum of clouds and a rabbit
peers out of his hutch.

Love your mother who always wears
her favorite dress when she comes to you

in dreams and give thanks to the lilac bush
that blooms from her ashes.

Love also the sounds of trucks without mufflers
the breath of drunkards returning home

and the chorus of spring peepers, reminding you
that you are not alone.

Delight in waking from a deep sleep to hear
the snoring of your husband beside you—

alive, yes, still alive.

Margaret Chula has published eight collections of poetry including, most recently, *Daffodils at Twilight*. Grants from the Oregon Arts Commission and the Regional Arts and Culture Council have supported her work, as have fellowships to the Vermont Studio Center, the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, and Playa. She has served as president of the Tanka Society of America and as Poet Laureate of Friends of Chamber Music. After living in Kyoto for twelve years, she now makes her home in Portland, Oregon.

MATT BULT

Two Hummingbirds, 2006
Acrylic on Canvas, 30 x 30 in



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