

**ELAINE  
BADGLEY ARNOUX**

*The Night Sky*, 1993  
Mixed Media on Paper, 30 x 22 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

**CHANA BLOCH**  
Muir Woods

for Dave

I slipped into the hollow  
blackened trunk of a redwood  
one foggy Sunday  
and crooked my finger.

*A forest nymph!* you laughed.  
In a wink you're inside.  
What a fine and private place to kiss  
in the wit of the moment.

Inside this house of ours,  
charred walls we can touch  
at the core of the living tree.

The scars left by lightning fires  
are sleek and cool to our hands.  
We are the only heat.

**Chana Bloch's** *Swimming in the Rain: New and Selected Poems* will be published in 2015. She is the author of four books of poems, and co-translator of the biblical *Song of Songs*, *The Selected Poetry of Yehuda Amichai* and his *Open Closed Open*, and *Hovering at a Low Altitude: The Collected Poetry of Dahlia Ravikovitch*. Bloch is professor emerita at Mills College, where she taught for many years and directed the creative writing program.