

Anca Vlasopolos – Three Poems

Rising

perhaps it's sun in the late afternoon

the time when summer after summer we arrived

route 6 rolling beneath tires

exit 8 union street station avenue north south

sun gilds each needle pines rising into each curve

this sun stabs spears dipped in bronze

deep in the chest

for rising rising like straight pines

ghosts gather

loved ones who with us feasted on this light

words smiles jokes small adventures

float

dance

shadows running from our speed

slicing

as if a proffered melon

this munificence

While It Lasted

for just two years

I kept burying my nose in your leather gloves silk scarves

those few things shored up
against the stab of grief
then deeper duller pain

I could for those two years still sense your scent

I'd learned from my unbeing
to what I became
as it collected divided multiplied
its cells

to what I'd known as long as knowing anything

I added your Coty powder your subtle hint of Channel Number 5

scarves gloves no longer speak of you
though for more than thirty years I wear and mend and wear them
perfume long gone too
I put on after
thoughtless that I was not alone in grief

so your granddaughter startled by your embodied fragrance

she and I alone inside the car

cried out

who here smells like my grandmother

What They Eat

this is not about diets—mediterranean paleo gluten-free

yes come to think of it in a way it is

golden grove sugar maple on fire

the ill-named evergreen

all bring us to melancholy while they ply their symphonic notes

because somehow we know

from back when we too swam without will eyes ears

took in whatever passed by

we know these paints wringing hearts with barbarous fierceness

of beauty these paints come from each day's growing hunger

we know these (we pretend) without senses and thoughts now bereft

these eat ever less light

Anca Vlasopolos is the award-winning novel *The New Bedford Samurai*; the award-winning memoir *No Return Address: A Memoir of Displacement*; four collections of poems, *Often Fanged Light* (Adelaide Books, 2019), *Cartographies of Scale (and Wing)* (2015), *Walking Toward Solstice* (2012) and *Penguins in a Warming World* (2007); three poetry chapbooks, a detective novel, *Missing Members*, and over three hundred poems and short stories in literary journals.