

## Audrey Howitt

### Impasse

pull the mask on,  
take it off  
without noticing.

it's part of the process  
of leaving  
unannounced.

gristle attuned  
to higher frequencies  
no longer heard.

it's not the loss,  
a pool of warm water  
unfelt until it cools  
or raises blisters  
where heat touched skin.

it's lack of floor or ceiling,  
walls certain and firm  
that protect from wind and rain.

I stand, raw dirt beneath my feet,  
not turning right or left  
looking outward for a future.

**Audrey Howitt** lives and writes poetry in the San Francisco Bay Area. When not writing, she sings opera and teaches voice. She is also a licensed attorney and licensed marriage and family therapist. Ms. Howitt has been published in: *Total Eclipse Poetry and Prose*, *Chiaroscuro-Darkness and Light*, *dVerse Poets Anthology*, *With Painted Words*, *Algebra of Owls* and *Lost Towers Publications*. She continues to find new ways to explore diverse aspects of herself as she moves through her life.