

Federica Santini

Unearthed

Can you unearth water? Make it raise from twisted veins
with forked rod, bifurcated tongue lapping
green lodes—attracted, slowly re-surfacing, re-versed
pattern of deep well digging itself
filling up

Can you unearth yourself, with long precise strides,
from heart and hearthstone? From well-established
lodes of running, retorted silver? Abandon
the silk and the thread, the headstone of
flame, the never-pronged path?

You, dappled seed, twisted rivulet seeking
the surface: where are you when nobody looks?

Federica Santini lives in Atlanta, GA, and teaches at Kennesaw State University. She holds an M.A. from the University of Siena, Italy and a Ph.D. from UCLA where she studied poetry and literary translation. A literary critic, poet and translator, her work has been published in over forty journals and volumes. She is a 2021 Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference Fellow (Arizona State University).