

## Lorraine Caputo – Two Poems

### This Rain

This rain, this rain  
has stayed  
most of the day,  
dampening streets,  
rivulets flowing  
down gutters,  
swirling into drains

This rain, this rain  
has driven people  
under narrow awnings,  
waiting for a pause  
to continue their ways

This rain, this rain  
keeps us this night  
in the dry of homes,  
perhaps a leak  
in the roof  
methodically tapping  
on wooden floors

This rain, this rain  
shall fade during  
the night, 'til  
dawn erupts through  
broken clouds

### Lago Suchitlan

Parched hills encircle  
Cerrón Grande Reservoir  
This lake is low as we  
reach the end of  
this *sequía*  
Where the waves should wash  
temporary grass had  
taken hold & died

On the dry rocky shore  
people sit beneath palm thatch  
drinking sodas to kill the thirst  
of this brutal heat

Almost-leafless trees thinly shadow  
the now-high banks  
The thin pasture is burned yellow  
a cow lows near the water's edge  
The smells of cattle dung & fish  
hang in the still air

Now & again a boat goes out or returns  
On the beach  
men clean the catch  
They slit open the silvery stomachs  
& with one finger pull  
the guts out  
& toss the still-flapping bodies  
into metal tubs  
Scaled kin catches rainbows  
of morning sun

From the depths of the *lago*  
patches of drowned forests  
reëmerge  
Upon their long-barren limbs  
rising above the green water  
white *garzas* alight

On an island beneath the  
small shade of two trees  
a pair of cows twitch their tails  
& horses graze

**Lorraine Caputo** is a documentary poet, translator and travel writer. Her works appear in more than 250 journals on six continents; and 18 collections of poetry – including *On Galápagos Shores* (dancing girl press, 2019) and *Escape to the Sea* (Origami Poems Project, 2021). She also authors travel narratives, articles and guidebooks. In March 2011 the Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada honored her verse. Caputo has done more than 200 literary readings, from Alaska to the Patagonia. She travels through Latin America, listening to the voices of the pueblos and Earth. Follow her travels: [www.facebook.com/lorrainecaputo.wanderer](https://www.facebook.com/lorrainecaputo.wanderer) or <https://latinamericawanderer.wordpress.com>.