

Mary Buchinger

The geese lift off—

ruckus of wings
the water surrenders
its cache of birds

bright webbed
feet aloft paddle
the body of air

one black-white bird
then another and another
an ensemble of parts

massed individuals
clamorous together
and I wake again

fragments of night rise
all the many of me
move as if whole

Mary Buchinger is the author of four collections of poetry, including *e i n f ü h l u n g / i n* *feeling*, *Aerialist*, and *Navigating the Reach* (forthcoming). Her poetry has appeared in *AGNI*, *Salamander*, *Slice Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Massachusetts Review*, and elsewhere. She is president of the New England Poetry Club and professor of English and communication studies at MCPHS University in Boston.