

Ellene Glenn Moore

At Gunsight Rock

At an elevation of 2000 feet
I imagine I can see the Golden Gate Bridge
bristling from behind one mountain bend or another,
water misting the land's edge
until it is indistinguishable from the bay,
body from which it emerged.
All of it is returning to water, a slow bleed,
a yearning for completion,
and from the bald shoulder of this mountain
I am thinking of a story my mother once told me:
Once in San Fran, a contest was held
seeking the most apt, illuminated
work of art portraying that bridge, symbol of its city.
The winning work cast its towers as a mother and father,
cables as arms, and suspended between them
at the point of inflection, a laughing child,
swinging over water that looked on impassively.
I can't say if any of this is real ("real" as in
the abstract watercolor painting that hung over her bed,
red orb rising over liquid blue in thick, vivid strokes,
which I imagined as a child was a sun
then an eye, then a city swallowed by flames)
or if it is a transmutation of some dim knowledge
my mother may have heard once at a wrap party
or a dinner of mussels—because they are cheap—
legs dangled over the edge
of a flat-roofed sublet in Chinatown.

And implausible, really, that I should see the bridge
50 miles and a whole county north
of its spiring path from one rock to another.
I mean to say that something changes
between the cold considerations of the bay
and the flush, arid light of this mountain lookout.

Between us, the land dips and rises,
asking nothing of its source.

Ellene Glenn Moore

Ellene Glenn Moore is a writer living in sunny South Florida. Her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Lake Effect*, *Best New Poets*, *Caliban*, and *The Journal*, among others, and her prose has appeared in *Brevity*, *Fjords Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and elsewhere. Ellene earned her MFA in creative writing at Florida International University, where she held a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Fellowship in Poetry. Her chapbook *The Dark Edge of the Bluff* (Green Writers Press, 2017) was runner-up for the Hopper Prize for Young Poets. Find her at www.elleneglennmoore.com.

