

Psalm for Wednesday

Shari Goldman Gottlieb

the blue was everywhere.
clouds of deep purple
and billows of green drifted
in and out.
it was the first time
for firmament, a thin silvery skin
stretched across upwards,
a space in the endless blue.
soon years
to crane our necks
to throw our heads back
under it, open-mouthed.
at night
the stars
would look like they were drifting
under water.
but first the rough bottoms of trees
were rising from the earth
among callow stalks
all still unnamed.

Shari Goldman Gottlieb spends much of her time embroiled in oral and written Jewish and Spanish texts, both as a graduate student in Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania and as an observant egalitarian Jew and lay-leader. Her poems and prose pieces reflect her fine arts training, echoing the mix of real and surreal communicated through the colors and brush strokes of green trees, 'moonfish,' and other inhabitants of her paintings.