

## Three Poems

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# Squatter

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*Lori Mairs*

can the Horus, sun disc scavengers and I  
build music  
tap out form  
melt into wisdom, language

can we gather with us the sawyer beetle  
who feeds on the decay of rotted cedar  
then together plant pictures and words  
in streams where they swirl in flotsam eddies

I am a squatter on these borderlands

storm the barricades!  
breach a wall!  
ask *it* what *it* wants to say  
and talk back

for once  
talk back

# Enflesh

---

*Lori Mairs*

to enflesh the world  
you'll need to trick yourself  
just a little

listen with your eyes

touch with your smell  
smell with your ears  
see colour through your skin  
and taste with the very, very, tips of your fingers

lock it in

carry tone from stone into the wilds of canyon walls  
and drop it there as soup for the bears

empty once

then fill another bucket with hum and roll  
gathered from chickadees  
and offer it up to whoever is next  
and next  
and next

thicken the flesh  
of the invisible in-between  
and re-flesh, en-flesh, flesh out  
this world  
of the forgotten covenant  
when *it* was the weft  
and / the weave

# Garden Bear

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*Lori Mairs*

He was a bear of habit. There was an afternoon swim about 2pm in the heat of the day and a wander through the yard just as night fell. He'd have a sniff and a poop at the woodshed early in the morning then meander off into chokecherry-land and ant-hill heaven until swim time.

Garden bears are good as long as you have no bird feeder and no garbage or dirty recycling outdoors. I have none of the above. The average garden bear will eat berries, poop on your lawn, redecorate your yard by rolling heavy boulders for you and possibly tipping over bird baths and patio tables that have outgrown their style and location (you meant to move those boulders, didn't you?). Garden bears will eat the ants, trim up your Oregon grapes, and in general, be a delightful distraction from all that is wrong with the world.

This garden bear looks like the same garden bear from last summer. I'll need to get a closer look to see if there's a scar over his left eye but I'm guessing there is. 2pm is 2pm.