KATHARYN HOWD MACHAN

Sometimes Fox and Her Beloved

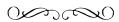
make their forest rounds together, rounding the edges of each other, too, teeth and claw and fur. Sometimes they go to find light in the spruce, the lady slipper, dappled birds

in partial nests making new, making new, or darkness in breathing stems, small mouths of caves, everywhere tiny tunneling creatures that move black earth and fallen wood.

They walk west. The wind blows.
They walk south. The wind blows.
They walk east. The wind blows
as the sun lifts a hundred streams to silver

and shadows mossy pools. Other animals turn their faces north to help complete the circle: all raise their snouts, stare straight ahead, warily trust this moving air.

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ABOUT KATHARYN HOWD MACHAN

Katharyn Howd Machan is the author of *Wild Grapes: Poems of Fox* (Finishing Line Press 2014), *H* (Gribble Press 2014), and *When She's Asked to Think of Colors* (Palettes & Quills 2009). Her poetry has appeared in *The Hollins Critic, Beloit Poetry Journal, The MacGuffin, Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Yankee Magazine*. She received a PhD in interpretation from Northwestern University and is a long-time resident of Ithaca, New York, where she is a professor in the department of writing at Ithaca College. She is also a professional performer and teacher of belly dance, as well as of StoryDance for young children. For many years she served as the coordinator of Ithaca Community Poets and as the director of the national Feminist Women's Writing Workshops. From 2002-2004 she was Tompkins County's first poet laureate.

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