

LAUREN CAMP

Figure and Ground

I try to understand the small outside I let in that year:
artichoke, orchid, what was beautifully composed. I admired
every sentence he spoke and the valleys of grape. I dreamt
the calligraphy and claws of black ravens,
the disrobing all afternoon. I kept the entire map
without conscience or question as if following
where it led and where it scattered in distance.
None of us knew the path was untraceable.
We waited to start over, repeating *Nothing to lose, nothing
to lose*. We carried our shadows; nothing more.
And nothing more difficult. But let's begin with the end,
and its unspoken vinegar skin of apology, its unit of meaning.



ABOUT LAUREN CAMP

Lauren Camp is the author of *This Business of Wisdom* (West End Press 2010), *The Dailiness* (Edwin E. Smith Publishing 2013), and *One Hundred Hungers* (forthcoming from Tupelo Press). Her work has also appeared in *World Literature Today*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Radar Poetry*, *Pea River Journal*, and *Crab Orchard Review*. She is a freelance writing teacher as well as the producer and host of the global music/poetry program “Audio Saucepan” on Santa Fe Public Radio. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Online at laurencamp.com.

