

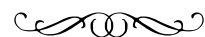
TOM HOLMES

The Invention of Inspiration

This time as the sun sets
I crawl to the cave's lowest level.
Howls and whispers roll by.
I'm an ear in the cave.

Down here, the sun is a deep pond,
and I'm a diaphanous shadow—
the air tastes good to my palate,
and the slow colors rise in me.

Beasts leap from my hands.
I may never return.



ABOUT TOM HOLMES

Tom Holmes is the editor of *Redactions: Poetry, Poetics, & Prose* and the author of six collections of poetry. He has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize seven times and once for the Pulitzer Prize. His writings about wine, poetry, and book reviews can be found at his blog, *The Line Break*: thelinebreak.wordpress.com.

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