

KATHARYN HOWD MACHAN

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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.



## ABOUT KATHARYN HOWD MACHAN

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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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