

CHARLENE LANGFUR

Material Universe

I am out walking again but nothing is exactly the same as it was.
Light shifts. Hints of things unseen are different as is the map in my mind
telling me how to move forward or how to get back home. Even
the material world changes. New ways to tie up the yellow tomatoes to shore
them up in the wind, ways to pay off what is owed, month by month,
day by day, tally what is due and what is left over and the walk over
the mountain grass, it shows what lasts and what doesn't, the glow around
the roses at sunrise, a little light to see the way forward, I go for
the small lights, daybreak's signs, illuminations whether there is much to see
or not, looking for ways to count and measure the quality of things, thin air,
earth the color of terra cotta, what stays against what is gone,
I am following along past the sliver of the fading moon, beyond the black
sky full of stars, what can be mapped, past the last of the lamplight,
the phenomenology of the night, past the roses blooming before the
sunrise, white petals unfolding until there is more



ABOUT CHARLENE LANGFUR

Charlene Langfur's poems have recently appeared in *Weber—The Contemporary West*, *Poetry East*, *Valley Voices*, *Earth's Daughters*, and *Buddhist Poetry Review*. Having received a dual graduate degree from Syracuse University, where she was a writing fellow in poetry, she is now a teacher of English and creative writing. She lives in Palm Desert, California.

