

SHARON OLSON

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One Fine Day  
for Peggy

A Renaissance painter might have captured it this way:  
a tableau along the canal bank, the two of us in black  
leggings posing as courtiers, the blue heron we stumbled  
upon almost as tall as us, nonchalant as an adolescent  
in a feathered cap, one leg expertly drawn up, his grass  
stalk reflectively chewed. Vehicles on the bridge lumbered  
on the wood planks but far enough away to be silent.

In the next scene we pretended to have mastered self-  
portraiture in a convex mirror, distorting our faces  
as the Mannerists liked to do, pressing the camera  
icon repeatedly to get the best shot, leaving out  
of course the dike, the heron, even the painter  
if he had really been there, leaving only  
a small piece of the sky, shorthand  
for the fullness we all at once  
perceived.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Sharon Olson is the author of *The Long Night of Flying* (Sixteen Rivers Press 2006), and her work has also appeared in *Off the Coast*, *String Poet*, *The Curator*, *Arroyo Literary Review*, and *Cider Press Review*. She is a member of the Cool Women Poets critique and performance group and the U. S. 1 Poets' Cooperative. A genealogist and retired librarian, she lives in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and can be found online at [slopoet.blogspot.com](http://slopoet.blogspot.com).

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