



Birds & Bees

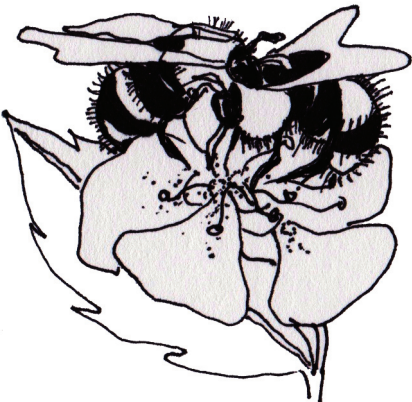
Meri Culp

Honey Eaters — Their Song

Birdsong, brush-tipped refrain, tongued in nectar hymns,
the nature of red, opening to morning, calling all things wild, all things of the spirit,
to the dance of give & receive, long black beak to sunrise gold, torch song lit,
perch to perch, how the sacred is flamed, alights again in the evening fold of petals,
flickers of honey left, a bloom kept for tomorrow, a flitting hum.

Honeybees — Their Buzz

Daybreaking, a circling courtship, bee hum zooming to meadow buzz,
bends to the call & response of a breeze-by love song:
a sky tall sunflower shows off her yellow, opens her round face to find
nature's double, all black and yellow, waiting for the moment of nature knowing,
an invitation to enter, to echo glory into gold.



Meri Culp has been published in various journals, including *Minetta Review*, *Grist*, *Saw Palm*, *The Inquisitive Eater*, *Nashville Review*, *Espresso Ink*, *About Place*, *Cider Press Review*, *Off the Coast*, *Southeast Review*, *Apalachee Review*, *BOMB*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Rose & Thorn*, *Nomads*, *Snug*, and *Sweet: A Literary Confection*. Her poems have also appeared online in *True/Slant*, *Poets for Living Waters*, and *USA Today* and in the anthologies *The Gulf Stream: Poems of the Gulf Coast*, *Love You Madly: Poetry About Jazz*, *North of Wakulla*, *Think: Poems for Aretha Franklin's Inauguration Day Hat*, and *All of Us: Poems from our First Five Years*. She was a finalist in the 2013 Peter Meinke Poetry Competition and the 2014 Crab Orchard Open Series in Poetry Competition and 2014 Crab Orchard First Book Award Competition. Also, her poetry was included in *Poetry Leaves*, an art installation in Michigan.



This poem is one of ten poems selected to appear in The Pollinator Poetry Post, a public art project of Border Free Bees. Over 130 original poems were submitted from contributors throughout Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The Post will be installed in various locations in Kelowna and Richmond, British Columbia, Canada from 2016-2017. The poets whose work is published are as follows: Yvonne Blomer, Meri Culp, morgan downie, Tami Haaland, Lisa Huffaker, Guillaume Loslier-Pinard, Christine Lowther, Rhona McAdam, Wendy Morton, Phoebe Reeves.

Border Free Bees is a long-term public art initiative headed by Dr. Cameron Cartiere, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Culture + Community at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Nancy Holmes, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, in collaboration with numerous strategic partners. The initiative's mission is to raise awareness of the plight of wild pollinators, empower communities to actively engage in solutions for habitat loss, and transform under-utilized urban sites into aesthetically pleasing and scientifically viable pollinator pastures. Border Free Bees is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Judges for the contest were poets Nancy Holmes and Fionncara MacEoin, pollinator scientist Dr. Elizabeth Elle, and public art theorist and artist Dr. Cameron Cartiere. Border Free Bees thanks Fionncara MacEoin, S. Megan Hunter and Kaila Burke for building the Poetry Post. The poetry pages were designed by Fionncara MacEoin with illustrations by Rhythm Hunter.

www.borderfreebees.com

