

1996

Still Waters

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Poem written after the fluid words of Linda Gregerson:

Still Waters

1

Single estuary of brackish concentration
Is filtered in from an ebbing
Sea of endless dimension.
Embodying a tranquil pool winding round
Pappy structures where cottontails arise
And fiddler crabs ally to dance.

2

Pair of voracious perch
All armed in suit of scaly glimmer
Pirouette through volume
Of mud mist and water,
In ravenous search of winged damsels
Cut short of flight by a surface of persuasion.

3

Trinity of chalky herons tip toe
About the murky moistened density
In all their stealth and grace,
Awaiting the hint of a silver flash
Upon which they strike and grasp
With their clutching bill of natural awe.

4

Quartet of throbbing bullfrogs
Lay their bulging bodies stationary about the engulfing sediment,
Like guard dogs molded into statue of motion.
Eyes fixated on the hope of stranded prey
Flown separate and astray
And then a realm of enticing dismay.

—Jay Brandeis '99