

## Barbara Siegel Carlson

### Trakl\*

In the doorway of the iron shop he watched  
a rat drink from a puddle,  
the water shuddering, drawing him in  
like the lake he walked into when he was five.  
He shivers at the sight of his sister  
in her tiny room overlooking a light shaft.  
The rats kept gnawing at his toes long after  
the water rose over his scalp, his heart's  
black song, his pale-haired sister  
whose silence glides over the keys. He climbs  
the spiral stairs toward the ring of light at the top  
clotted with blood and yearning,  
the holy ripple of those tower bells  
sealing them in its crystal hairs.

\*Georg Trakl—German expressionist poet (1887-1914)

**Barbara Siegel Carlson's** poetry collection *Fire Road* is forthcoming from Dream Horse Press. She a co-translator (with Ana Jelnikar) of Slovene poet Srečko Kosvoel's Selected Poems *Look Back, Look Ahead* from Ugly Duckling Press.