

Steven Sher

Thirst

for Orna Even Parker

In this heat all things will thirst:
the leafy plants at the top of the stairs,
the potted bushes in the courtyard.

In the dark the owner comes to water them
as we are settling into sleep.
Beyond our open window

I hear pot and planter drinking greedily,
water pooling for a moment
before it soaks into parched soil.

The pouring done, the courtyard
still, a shy breeze
squeezes through the screen.

A native of Brooklyn now living in Jerusalem, **Steven Sher** the author of 15 books including, most recently, *Uncharted Waters* (New Feral Press, 2017), *The House of Washing Hands* (Pecan Grove Press, 2014) and *Grazing on Stars: Selected Poems* (Presa Press, 2012). Since the 1970s, his poetry and prose have appeared in hundreds of journals worldwide. Sher has also worked as an editor/journalist and taught at many universities and writing workshops.