

Kallima Hamilton

Mystique

Dawn opens with its blue tips, fragrant
with promise and the hushed applause
of cacti and sagebrush.

I have so much with which to welcome you.
Tides of fire invade me;

I'm permeable to distant flame,
covered with violets and passionflowers.

Your gnarly roots slash my goblet of attention.
I spume in the beauty of resinous amber,

lift my lips to your solid truth.

Soon the tinny sound of rain will grace the air,
resilient as music and wood,
exotic as Botswana agate.

The sculptor repeats his shape with sweet laugh
and echo of wave crash. A golden film nurtures
our astonished touch—the rose is transformed,
unfurling;,, jasmine sends cherry bombs of scent.

I saunter in svelte as a lamb
and pelt you with a quiver of watermelon kisses.

Kallima Hamilton is the author of *Outside the Lava Fields* (Aldrich 2012) and *The Mermaid's Thesaurus* (Middle Island 2013). Her poetry has been in *Shenandoah* and *Prairie Schooner*.