

Anca Vlasopolos

Consider Sycamores

o those young arms stretching toward zenith

how smooth the skin inviting open-palm caress

tawny in greenness hands welcoming the wind

they draw in to their blood all glory of our exploding star

boulevard Swan Lake performers as once we were

yet unlike us they stay moored skiffs sailing in place for life

while aging anchor line grows lichenous spotted crusted

rebarbative to touch unless we unrooted lose footing

their kingdom grants them power to need so little a small spot

splendor to loom in mercy above us

do they mind inextricable bonds of new to old

can these lithe limbs see down to shudder or to honor the old trunk

Anca Vlasopolos is the author of the award-winning novel *The New Bedford Samurai*; the award-winning memoir *No Return Address: A Memoir of Displacement*; four collections of poems, *Often Fanged Light* (Adelaide Books, 2019), *Cartographies of Scale (and Wing)* (2015); *Walking Toward Solstice* (2012); and *Penguins in a Warming World* (2007); three poetry chapbooks, a detective novel, *Missing Members*, and nearly three hundred poems and short stories in literary journals.