

Anca Vlasopolos – Two Poems

Virtual Spaces

the virtual album opens
 a click at a time
 photos of perhaps a city
i once inhabited
 that once inhabited me

can i be sure
this allée cathedraled by huge trees is the one
 where we ran wildly through the golden leaves
 gathered lustrous new chestnuts

can i know with any certainty
this bridge generously arching over the park lake is the same
 where my small hoodlum friends and i hung over the balustrade
 feet off the ground (our mothers' nightmare)
 to watch through greenish waters
 murky mysterious shapes

 like this holey bridge
 that allée sprinkled with sun almost too glorious to withstand
memory lights then blows out
 its flame

January's Small Mercies

 only a fingerling of water left
 of pond in winter's vise
yet clown-beaked ducks act
 as if this tiny world were all they needed

Anca Vlasopolos published the award-winning novel *The New Bedford Samurai*; the award-winning memoir *No Return Address: A Memoir of Displacement*; three collections of poems, *Cartographies of Scale (and Wing)*, October, 2015; *Walking Toward Solstice* (2012); and *Penguins in a Warming World* (2007); three poetry chapbooks, a detective novel, *Missing Members*, and over two hundred poems and short stories. She was nominated several times for the Pushcart Award in poetry and fiction.