

Darren Black

Lady Liberty Begins to Fidget

--fixing her patinated copper crown
with gloved fingers, a recycled tiara
last Halloween's zombie-queen

headgear, now the exclamation
of her Central Park hustle.
she is far from her Brooklyn art

majestic by only a tourist's reckoning.
she floats draped in metallic fabric
for slow hours, the matchstick- headed

children who burn free from their parents
on April's first hot day
shriek toward her

reach for her faux torch,
and guilt their parents into selfies
that go for five dollars each.

she grips their bills with a time lapse sweep
of her free hand,
thinking how she'd like

to be less of a statue
one day, like the ladies
who claimed their evening benches.

money made and husbands buried,
they wrinkle smiles
at the democracy of squirrels
who fight over scraps in the grass.

Darren Black continues to work on his poetic skills and has been an active participant in several local, writing workshops since 2017. He has also studied his craft in the Vermont College MFA program in the 1990's. He seeks his first poetry publications. Darren holds a BA in English from the University of Notre Dame and an MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from U. Mass Boston. He is a long-time resident of Jamaica Plain where he forms an Aquarian tandem with his spouse. As a person living with blindness, Darren savors his unique experiences and draws on a life's history of negotiating environments that are not made for persons with disabilities. He hopes that a bit of queer sensibility and irony touches everything he writes.