

## Carol Carpenter

### Home Again

I poke in corners of the world  
and return naked to my clean,  
uncluttered space.

I stand still  
as the lily pond outside my window,  
my thoughts in bud, about to burst.

My fingertips curl toward palm, a cup  
of air. I breathe in natural light,  
exhale shadows, my flesh-tone poem.

**Carol Carpenter**'s poems and stories have appeared in numerous online and print publications, including: *Connecticut Review*, *Snake Nation Review*, *Birmingham Arts Journal*, *Georgetown Review*, *Caveat Lector*, *Orbis*, *Arabesques Review*, and various anthologies, the most recent are *Not What I Expected* (Paycock Press, 2007) and *Wild Things* (Outrider Press, 2008). Her work has been exhibited by art galleries and produced as podcasts (*Connecticut Review* and *Bound Off*). She received the Hart Crane Memorial Award, the Richard Eberhart Prize for Poetry, the Jean Siegel Pearson Poetry Award, Artists Among Us Award and others. Formerly a college writing instructor, journalist and trainer, she now writes full time in Livonia, Michigan.