

Helen Bar-Lev

Autumn in the Orchards

autumn is felt keenest
In October
in the orchards

culled apples
overripe, overlooked,
fallen apples
forgotten, strewn
on the ground, molding
rotting
reabsorbing
into the fertile earth
as the leaves
simultaneously yellow
and tumble
covering all

in the orchards
where we walk the seasons,
white blossoms of spring,
maturing fruit of summer,
the decay of autumn,
winter barren,
the sadness
of time's passing is felt most
in October

Helen Bar-Lev was born in New York City in 1942. She has lived in Israel for 37 years. Since 1976 Helen has devoted herself to art: painting, teaching and writing poetry. From 1989 - 2001 she was a member of the Safad Artists' Colony where she had her own gallery. To date Bar-Lev has had 80 exhibitions, including 30 one-person shows. Her poems and paintings have appeared in numerous online journals and print anthologies. *Cyclamens and Swords* with poems of Israel by Helen and Johnmichael Simon and Helen's paintings has been published by Ibbetson Press, Boston MA. Helen is Editor-in-Chief of the *Voices Israel Anthology* and Senior Editor of *Cyclamens and Swords Publishing*.