

M.J. Iuppa -- Two Poems

East River Ferry

My mind, a dark sea sky, wild
scatter of sequins in lofty
altitudes— soundless glitter of

a city's constellation— see how it
comes and goes— uncharted
distance above this worldly traffic

that doesn't yield to a tugboat's
sudden horn in twilight's fog—
my wakeful mind has no bottom

or top—far flung thoughts lost
in the wide ribbon of white foam,
wanting sighs of cascading

bubbles to carry me— here.

A Stone's Throw

This morning's winter sky
catches wind— clouds steeped
in a wash of amethyst
set sail for a wilderness beyond
rutted dirt roads, where a
thought

waits in a field of thistle, ready
to stick to the
unassuming

ones who pass by . . .

It takes courage to pluck
seeds

stuck to fur & wool, and spoil
attachments that
seem

to keep this
world
behind barbed wire.

Like the winter sky, ever-
changing,

there's a gap in the
seam

between wild & wilderness
night's ashes still warm
in the woodstove . . .

M.J. Iuppa lives on Red Rooster Farm near the shores of Lake Ontario. Most recent poems, lyric essays and fictions have appeared in the following journals: *Poppy Road Review*, *Black Poppy Review*, *Digging to the Roots*, *2015 Calendar*, *Ealain*, *Poetry Pacific Review*, *Grey Sparrow Press: Snow Jewel Anthology*, *100 Word Story*, *Avocet*, *Eunoia Review*, *Festival Writer*, *Silver Birch Press: Where I Live Anthology*, *Turtle Island Quarterly*, *Wild Quarterly*, *Boyne Berries Magazine (Ireland)*, *The Lake, (U.K.)*, *Punchnel's*, *Camroc Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Corvus Review*, *Clementine Poetry*, *Postcard Poetry & Prose* and *Brief Encounters: A Collection of Contemporary Nonfiction*, edited by *Judith Kitchen and Dinah Lenney* (Norton), among others. She is the Director of the Visual and Performing Arts Minor Program at St. John Fisher College.