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## Drinking Gin on Torch Lake

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## Drinking Gin on Torch Lake

*Mary Maroste*

Pregnancy is a wound –  
light purple body fat with water,  
glassy eyes staring through the snow.

My uncle, the hole in the ceiling,  
fat with blank birthday cards & warm beer.

\*\*

Give a painted turtle an orchid & watch what it becomes –  
sunset, black sand, the dead coral in Australia.

Along the river salamanders shed their tails & became men,  
my brother, the needle point of a prayer.

\*\*

The constellation I mapped in red & grey pebbles  
drifted south, dripped wax onto the clam shells I peeled apart &  
emptied on my dock.

\*\*

A wound –  
fish hooked through the eye,  
my grandmother's 5 children on food stamps.