

## MARY LOU SOUTAR-HYNES

### Variations

Take note of turbulence  
the way a collar frames her face, blouse  
loosely falling —  
                                irruptions  
of red admirals, jewels on the wing

Claim all lands between high and low tide  
  create ordinances  
then a guard around  
                                your heart's perimeter —  
                                a chain-link fence

Safer to rough it on the margins, rocked  
                                by lines of poetry  
dreaming icebergs, edges sharp, a lucent  
greening —  
                                all dues paid

### Mind over Matter

  Today the air is still,  
a raw sienna settling ash —  
                                mists curl between conifers  
in the ravine,  
the lake all curves, undulations

                                Spanning the river,  
the bridge recedes, languid, alert,  
                                arcing —  
invitation's quiet utterance

                                All those unbridgeable  
reaches across the years, striving for closure

*Just kiss the rock,*  
                                she said, *move on*

while memories breach the levees — tattered,  
whisper-thin

*Mary Lou Soutar-Hynes's poetry appears earlier in this volume.*