

RICHARD FOERSTER

A Tropic Wave

Old Miami, pastelled and insecure,
sprawls toward sawgrass, far

beyond these newly calcified
condos that rise bejeweled

from sand. Like houseflies
they copulate toward the heavens.

I count them pane by passive
pane. How sudden the near

horizon's swept from view
while palms endure their

ravishment. The future—drear
Lothario—surges undeterred.

Savasana

The corpse I am become
lives in pure counter-
poise, between weight and
weightless tidal flow, its breath
osmotic, its pulse subsumed. Here
is death beyond fear, without
want of resurrection, unyoked

from hate or any spur to forgive,
where all the masks of God
melt into irrelevant silences.
Here the body surrenders all
tethers to the past, its crowns
and cups of woe, and hope's
a stain absolved of any future,

where the only present is presence,
a nothing that is everything stillness
yearns to inhabit, that lights
no way to or fro. Dark bliss!
Give me back my staccato
heart, the stuttered air,
the buzzing lies of the world.

Niagara

Under Horseshoe Falls, the Maid of the Mist,
throttled at max amid thunder, churned
its engine headlong into the turbulence
to mimic a momentary repose, motionless
where all was furious motion.

Thus the red-robed
monk facing the masked phalanx in riot gear,
the student staring down the barrel
of destiny in Heaven's Square. Name them
if you can. One blink and history closes
the books we never read.

Yet the thrill, to stand within
the mists of nature's wonder, with the pounding
tonnage of time all around us, which, that day,
hadn't yet swept our awed faces toward more
settled waters.

That was our miraculous then.
But look, my broken love, the cormorant
that was diving there beside us all along, surfaces
here, again out of chaos, with a tiny radiance
thrashing, still poised in its bill.

Richard Foerster is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently *The Burning of Troy* (BOA Editions, 2006), which received a 2007 Maine Literary Award. Other work of his appears in *The Gettysburg Review*, *New Letters*, *Pleiades*, and *Southern California Review*.