

JON KERSEY

Birds and Fog, 2007
silver gelatin print, 9 x 9 in



courtesy: the artist

GAIL WRONSKY

Let Not

Let not the spangled lizard's scaly back
distract you while you scale these boulders

or you'll miss the otherworldly doe and young
fawn picking their way through the ragged

archipelago of rocks toward Big Bear Lake with
its soft rim of marsh and burnt cedar not to

mention the moon hanging rather outrageously
low in the daytime sky I miss them

routinely because I'm watching a
bee war sometimes because I've been standing

in the funerary line of humanity too
long breathing solemn fog onto the face of

some humbling mirror none of this stops the
sky from continuing none of it explains the flashing

turbulence of serpent beside the path or
the bewildering shoal of blue wings above I wish

that my thoughts could be projected like light
thrown as if they were rays of light all over this

landscape would that constitute a reconciliation
or betrayal of all these differentiations

in all seriousness if I try to picture my thoughts
they look like souls in Botticelli's Hell like flames

some of them with buds of miniscule human faces
which is also what they look like in Paradise

Gail Wronsky lives in Topanga, California, and is the author of ten books of poetry, prose, and translations. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *Pool*, *Volt*, *The Laurel Review*, *Crazyhorse*, and other literary magazines. Her newest book, *Tomorrow You'll Be One of Us* (What Books Press), is a collection of sci-fi poems coauthored with Chuck Rosenthal and illustrated by renowned artist Gronk.