

TIM MATTHEWS

Seagulls at Rio Del Mar, 2015
Archival print, 24 x 16 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

VERONICA KORNBERG

Conversation With My New Year's Resolution

In the perigee and perihelion
king tide neaps
you stand

a gray heron hunched
against gray rain

still and immutable
as brain-dead rocks
unfrocked by gravity

Do you sleep
ankle-deep in algae
dreams still draining
beneath your sharp-toed feet

or wait in brutal calculus
of violent thrust
of thrashing in the throat
on the long walk from sea lash?

Bird
when I first invented you, you looked
uncomplicated

gray fluff on a drunken sidewalk, watercolor
wash laid down with a soft brush.
But that is your gift—

to lull me,
your unwary fish,
force me

to struggle, to muscle-swish my escape
or not

And as for you?
You must kill
or failing

lift

Veronica Kornberg is a poet based in the small coastal town of Pescadero in Northern California. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *New Millennium Writings*, *Redactions: Poetry and Poetics*, *Negative Capability*, and *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*. She is currently at work on her first book of poems.