

ROSE SELLEY

Sucker, 2009
Cast Sugar, 9.5 x 5.5 x 4.5 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

MICHAEL S. HARPER

SUGAR (for your wedding)

*You were a junior in high school
(staying with me—no hotel fare)*

*I knew your parents
who'd met at Gustavus as undergrads*

*You were their firstborn
A boy with a biblical name*

*A boy with attitude
who did not swim—did not want to—ever*

*You found some tutelage in Kinshasa
(sent me a framed photo à la Grant Wood)*

*And now
to your folks' home in St. Peter,*

*I'm sending your nuptial check for \$100—
only sugar I could ever stand in my coffee!*

Michael S. Harper is the author of two National Book Award-nominated collections of poetry, *Dear John*, *Dear Coltrane* and *Images of Kin*. His *Songlines in Michaeltree: New and Collected Poems* was published in 2000. He is a professor at Brown University and was the first Poet Laureate of Rhode Island. In 2008 he won the Frost Medal for Lifetime Achievement from the Poetry Society of America.