

PHILIP ROSENTHAL

Pollenized, 2011
Enamel on Panel, 48 x 36 in



courtesy: the artist

SHENIZ JANMOHAMED

A Bluebird's Wing Ghazal

Geese fly back before the snow falls. January is the new spring.
If April is the cruelest month, how can winter rival an eternal spring?

With words etched into his skin, he extracts letters from his fingers.
She fans herself with his love letter, folded like a bluebird's wing.

The crow is the keeper of the Sacred Law, but you deem it evil.
If one crow is the ink of death, what will a murder of crows bring?

Steamrollers flatten the soil. Fishbones are coated with bitumen.
What melody will our rivers remember if songbirds forget how to sing?

Sheniz Janmohamed is a poet, author, spoken word artist, and freelance writer based in Toronto, Canada. She has read nationally and internationally for ten years, including performances at the Jaipur Literature Festival (India) and the Ted X Youth Conference (Toronto). She is also the founder of Ignite Poets, a spoken word youth initiative, and the author of *Bleeding Light* (TSAR, 2010), a collection of English *ghazals*. www.shenizjanmohamed.com