

EMILY SILVER

Memories and Mirage, 2010
watercolor on paper, 72 x 45 in



courtesy: Conrad Wilde gallery

TERRY MARTIN

Backyard

Tonight, out this dark view
from my window, moths
beat dusty wings against
the yellow porch light, and
I'm ten again,
familiar shapes of childhood
appearing through the glass.
Mom's clothesline punctuated
with wooden pins, Dad's
charcoal grill on a scuffed table.
My blue Schwinn Hollywood
leans against ponderosa pine,
sister's hula hoop circles a sprinkler.
A green rubber hose coils
like a serpent on wet grass.
In the rock garden, closed buds
of flowers, still clenched.
Lilacs holding promise.
The locked tool shed
waits for the right combination.
Above that back porch, moths
flutter and fling into the fact of lamp.
Up against it, they cannot understand
the heat they are drawn to,
or the light—all they want
just in front of them.

Terry Martin, an English professor at Central Washington University, is the recipient of CWU's Distinguished Professor Teaching Award and the CASE/Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year Award. Her poems, essays, and articles have appeared in over 300 publications, and she has edited both journals and anthologies. She has written three books of poems—*Wishboats* (2000), *The Secret Language of Women* (2006), and *The Light You Find* (forthcoming from Blue Begonia Press in 2014). "Backyard" is the opening poem of her new book.