

Two Poems by Richard Alan Bunch

Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge

(Cinco de Mayo, 2013, New Mexico)

Months of steady winds and no rain.
The Rio Grande runs dry into a fire hazard.

Gravel keeps fragile topsoil from being
gone with the wind.

Sandpipers tiptoe in mud with
a brown summer ahead.

White herons stalk the few fish there are.
Fire could ignite when hot wind matches a dry day.

A brown roadrunner scurries into the brush.

In the distance, mesas and bluffs in sedimentary gray
rock.

Usually coyotes howl at the daylight moon. Now
no coyotes bay at all.

Lizards that clone themselves
hide under rocks in the piccolopasso cactus garden

where the silvery voice of the wind
hums and snaps over red and pink cactus flowers.

Occasional copper sunflowers crop up as the eye
eyes a desert moonscape.

In the dance of dry wind and sun, there's a reunion
of earth, wind and fire.

Ghost Dance of the Gods

In the mind and its evening
shadows beyond yellowing
hillsides and the smoke
of evensong
and even plots of lovers
graves through wingbeats
of eyelids
over garden war
cries and heart-teasing epiphanies,
I can see once again
dressed in white masks
the ghost dance of the gods
in a still clearing
with arms lovelier
than a dreamer's heart.

Richard Alan Bunch is a three-time Pushcart Prize nominee and the author of several collections of poetry, including *Greatest Hits: 1970-2000*; *Wading the Russian River*; and *Running for Daybreak*. His poetry has appeared in *Windsor Review*, *Poetry New Zealand*, *Hurricane Review*, *Poem*, *Hawai'i Review*, *Many Mountains Moving*, *Red River Review*, *Slant*, *Homestead Review*, *Dirigible*, *Haight Ashbury Literary Journal*, *Comstock Review*, and the *Oregon Review*. His latest work is titled *Zen Sight and Tangerine Butterflies: New and Selected Poems*. He resides with his family in Davis, California. Visit his website: www.richardalanbunch.com