

## Two Poems by Richard Alan Bunch

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### Gordana

As her journey winds  
home  
past hog grunts,  
neighing buckskins,  
loud zoos of bitterns,  
asylums  
of the midden,  
and hills  
that reclaim hymns  
as fashions  
come and go,  
she shapes her  
happiness  
by being who  
she and is  
damn proud of it.

In spite of critics  
who read her  
like a  
hundred-year-old novel,  
she seems  
at times  
to be an  
apparition of splendor  
who provokes  
the genealogy  
of human curiosity,  
changes  
in psychic rhythms,  
and the

slow ferment  
of scientific imagination.

## **Chef Aileen**

Shades of an ancient  
pastoral in minor chords where  
Aberdeen Angus  
drink from ponds  
near the  
Sierra Madre Mountains  
as grasses  
invite their pink tongues.

Here no wax-red fires  
streak from head to heels  
but for us  
a cheerful privacy  
like speaking Czech  
on a bus to Pompeii.

Near some caves  
a troll named  
Chef Aileen  
struts along  
the edge  
of a gene pool  
and tells us that,  
though some things  
were never  
meant to be  
they thrive  
in the way  
things say  
and outbloom  
in the saying said.

**Richard Alan Bunch** is a three-time Pushcart Prize nominee and the author of several collections of poetry, including *Greatest Hits: 1970-2000*; *A Sausalito Moon*; *Johnny Cake*; 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*, *West Wind Review*, *Comstock Review*, and the *Oregon Review*. His latest work is titled *Painted Desert: New and Selected Poems*. He resides with his family in Davis, California.