

Poets

Meena Alexander
Judith Arcana
Jason Guriel

Steven Heighton
Ray Hsu
Tanis MacDonald

Yvonne Murphy
Alicia Ostriker
Russell Thornton

Priscila Uppal
Mark Yakich

Alicia Ostriker

Aphrodite

Hesiod called you the laughing one
Aphrodite, honey woman

I suppose because you laugh when our hearts crack
like red eggs. and we want to die

but you keep us on our knees, hoping, trying—
Well I am hurt and angry, you are aware

I have worshiped you all my life
sometimes yes as the laughing one

sometimes as a beggarly hag
for I recognized you in that poor disguise

and when the clock threw her arms in the air
and I threw my legs around the moon

you climbed inside me like the surge of a wave
I could ride, I could sail, and anyone I kissed

I was kissing you—whom I fear
I will never see again, never

kiss again. What do you give me
in return for my worship? A piece of the moon?