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## The Secret Language of Feet

Old shoes dangle above the streets. Every block  
in Flatbush has pairs of ratty Keds  
and greasy workboots strung  
over the powerlines. Con Edison owns  
a century of this city's discarded journeys,

stories forgotten on decomposing laces.

It started with one dreamer, tossing  
his past high to walk the electric tightropes  
as he tied another future on his feet.

With all the gladiatorial skill I can muster,  
I sling and drape my tattered sneakers  
on a wire. I sentence them  
to silence, the language of the hanged man.

Patrick Carrington

Patrick Carrington is the author of *Hard Blessings* (MSR Publishing, 2008), *Thirst* (Codhill, 2007), and *Rise, Fall and Acceptance* (MSR Publishing, 2006), and winner of New Delta Review's 2008 Matt Clark Prize and Yemassee's Pocataligo Contest in poetry. Recent poems have appeared in the *National Poetry Review*, *West Branch*, *Poet Lore*, and *Bellevue Literary Review*.