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## Harbour Song

come home to synaesthesia  
*devious-levity* is your credo,  
up on the treacherous bluff  
into that windswept-russet  
note the pink & amber tones  
taste the saltfish breezes —

let the evening flower settle  
among the wind-birds —  
the ruff & the reeve,  
the cutters & the strong-  
winged whimorets —

as you are, so you'll write —

*love turns life into riotous color*

voices drift from the wharf  
turning the air to counter-point —  
barrel-chested Dominican fishers  
empty their afternoon nets,  
& shout Spanish obscenities —  
laughter of underpaid slaves,  
mingling & making harmonies  
with the flapping & slapping  
of grouper & flounder,  
slapping & flapping,  
*fruit de mer* farmed for the deity —

call her *The Irish-American day-queen* —  
she's the raison d'être for the sloops  
& for the brawn & for the strenuous haul  
for the strained docks & these exhausted fishers  
& the elusive hues of her skin  
mimic the bay's shifting surface  
its respiring is another ode, *unhushed* —

the crest & ebb & surf-crash, cresting  
yet again into out-going foam — call it *cascando* —  
thin-fitness — ocean's essence  
fluid openness — amoral impulse

force philosophers to sing accompaniment  
to the truancy of this stray & fickle  
wonderment of aboriginal syntax —  
some lingua franca & raw noesis,  
freed of the puritan addiction  
to duals & "truth" — flaunting even the most  
ludicrous "rejected" title —

*Contralto of May, Lace-Flag of the Sands;*

inspired by the orange of dusk,  
draw faith from these meshed scents  
& sing strange responsorial psalms  
to sacraments of fun — freckles,  
a fedora & out-of-place gloves —

at-swim in this Easter-tide bounty —  
these white-capped greens & regal blues,  
here, bluest in its depths, as red & yellow  
starfish jewel the coral & sudden schools flash  
in watery gold — *frenetic* — swarming over the cress.

Tim Keane

Tim Keane is completing a book of poems called *Waking Yellow & Blue*. Poems from this collection have appeared in *Denver Quarterly*, *Modern Painters*, *International Poetry Review*, and many other magazines.