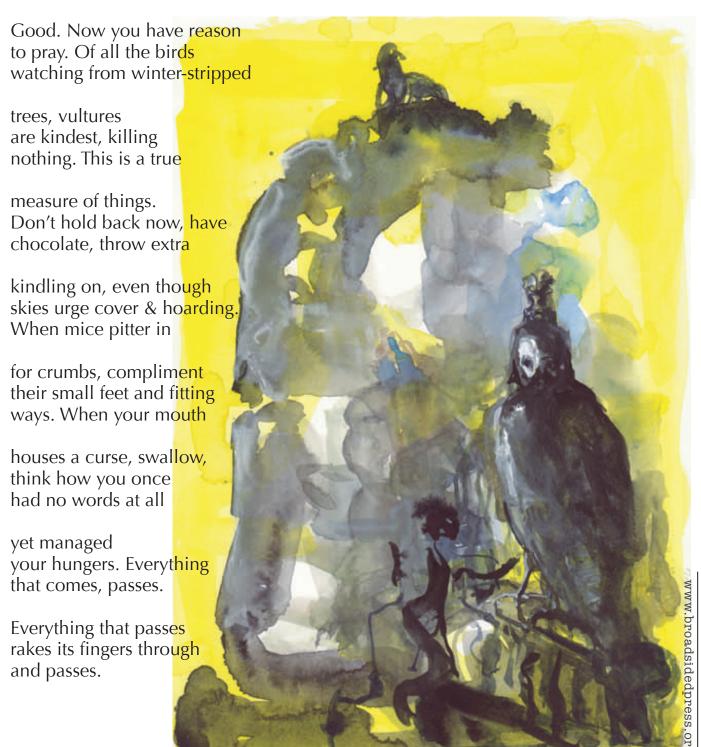
EMPIRE

Rain-glutted, the stream splays to the base of the retaining wall.



at an

Poet **Kathleen Lynch**'s *Hinge* won the 2006 Black Zinnias Press National Poetry Prize. She lives in California and online at www.kathleenlynch.com. This poem was first published as "The Hard Season" in *Poetry Magazine*. Artist **Helen Beckman Kaplan** is a painter from Brooklyn. In New York, she has exhibited work at AC Project Room and Edward Thorp Gallery.