The Seeds of Aleppo

The bazaar has burned,
The gathering of seeds dispersed

Sent to Morocco and Mexico;
with escort, to Turkey.

Seeds who escape,
Seeds who flee.

And far in the Svalbard archipelago,
Blue light over glacier,

Swirls of snow. Abrupt triangle, armed guard

into vault.
Vault of seeds.

For asteroid impact,
nuclear glow.

Now, though, first withdrawal of deposit:

Syria’s seeds petition
to return to desert

peas and beans,
packets of light.

Each sample temporary,
a memory to grow.

Each seed repeats,
Of course, if we could return,

Then of course,
We would go.

Artist Sarah Van Sanden is a landscape architect living in Seattle. She has a BFA in art and designs creative, thoughtful spaces with plants. Poet Tiffany Higgins is author of And Aeneas Stares into Her Helmet and has poems in Ghost Fishing, an anthology of ecojustice poems.

Note: This is a “Responses” feature in which writers and artists respond to world events. In this case, the 2015 Syrian Refugee Crisis.