

## CONSTANCE RICHARD

### Eucalyptus

Clouds hurry past like people  
skirting a graveyard.

Heat infuses the air, simmer of menthol.  
Santa Ana winds help undress,

piece by piece, the *globulus* eucalyptus.  
Arms, legs, a face revealed.

Her body thrashes and pulls  
in the annual shedding of skin.

Long and narrow leaves, shards  
litter the ground, scarves of a dancing woman.

She moves the sky and roots hold her.  
Disrobed, she's porcelain.

She has nowhere to grow but down.

**Constance Richard** received her Master of Fine Arts Degree from Emerson College in Boston. Originally from Southern California, she currently lives in Brookline, Massachusetts.