ELAINE WEBSTER

POEM

So to Speak

Out in the world

the dogs are barking at each other.

Will I also bark?

Or shall I whisper,

as a swan does in her heart when

she finds in the muddy lake-bed

that lost thing

and, carrying it in her beak,

breaks clear of the water,

stretching all her being into flight.

Elaine Webster teaches social theory in Sociology within the Department of Anthropology at the University of Otago in New Zealand. Dr Webster's research interests include dress and appearances, the self, power, symbolic meanings, and myth. A textile artist and writer of prose and poetry, she explores some of her research themes through creative work.