

THE TREE AT NIGHT

It wasn't a warm light that filled the spaces
of the limbs, curving and pouring around
the silver bark.

Had the moon spread a fountain of blue
over the windy dugout of grey dirt where
the tree lived?

Bordered by faint grass that lead to black
oblivion, guarded by Joshua Trees with
crowns hidden above.

Stay away, one warned, flashing slivers
of his silver emergency blanket
from scaly green flanks.

Beneath branches of the tree blue chills
blew away memories of green
daytime.

ED ROSENTHAL

Unlike giants of 20th Century Modernism such as Wallace Stevens and T.S. Eliot, businessmen who kept their day jobs at a seeming distance from their poetry, Ed Rosenthal "Poet/Broker of Downtown Los Angeles" was known for successfully integrating his writing and real estate. He had his real estate licenses signed by world renowned writers Shamus Heaney and Evan Boland, in an apparent effort to re-certify these to his purposes. Rosenthal's signature, "Poetic Request for 30 day Extension of Contingencies", was cited in the LA Times for an important redevelopment project. A Wall Street Journal piece contained several rhyming couplets contained Yiddish which Ed employed to admonish clients. A whole spectrum of other urban issues constituted Ed's muse as Poet Broker. He authored work that poeticized issues faced by clients and delivered these in large public spaces. The travails of Lula Washington Dance Company seeking precious studio space, the potential for smart growth to humanize development, were transformed to verse in classical forms. He presented a series of policy poems which political figures delivered at business conferences. He is the only poet Urban Land Institute has published, posting his highly critical, post Katrina ,pantoom "Poroh Talk" and the pro-development Hollywood Sonnet "24 Hour Shine". Changes in the persona of the "Poet/Broker" first surfaced with his delivery of several public poems imaging developers as cacti and as Rosenthal, inspired by Federico Garcia Lorca, began to place poems carrying lunar motifs on local websites. Survival of a harrowing near-death experience in the Mojave Desert in 2010 has deepened this imagistic writer's divorce from practicality in the direction of spiritual exploration. Almost turning to dirt in the great southwest desert has empowered a transformation beautifully memorialized in his poetry manuscript "The Desert Hat," published by Moonrise Press in 2013.

