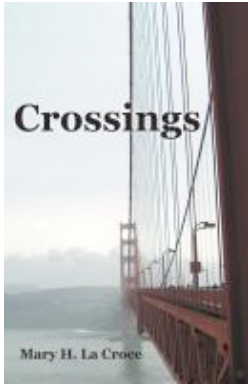


A photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, viewed from a low angle looking down the length of the bridge towards the foggy hills in the distance. The bridge's red-orange steel structure and suspension cables are prominent. The water is calm, and the sky is overcast.

Crossings

WITH NEW POEMS
FOR 2016

Mary H. La Croce



These selected poems span my lifetime, the dark existential perceptions of my youth, that yield eventually to a sense of Presence. The decision to superimpose them onto my photographs was meant to add another dimension, and, perhaps, create a new synergy of word and image. Nothing can capture the great mysteries and this is a very humble attempt to recognize the veil that shields them.

Crossings

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**Sunspent poem photo courtesy of NASA/
ESA Hubble Space Telescope shows a
cosmic oddity, dwarf galaxy DDO 68**

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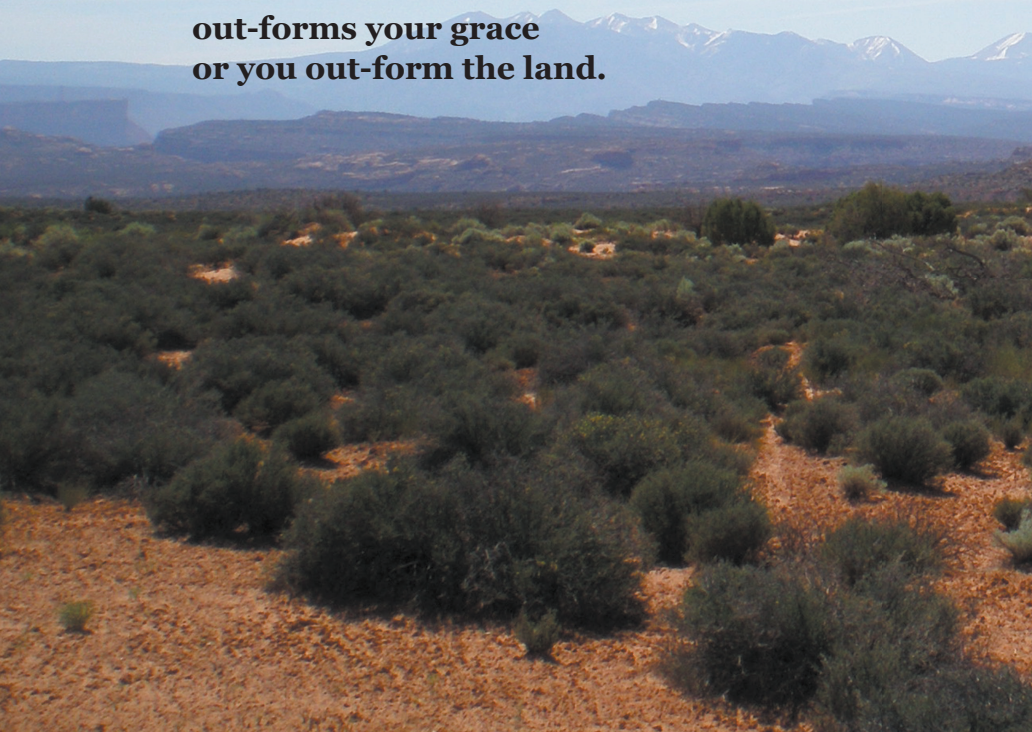
ANCESTRAL LAND

**Gather together
from the familiar air
similitudes of yourself.**

**Run your hand
along the backs of the hills,
the outline of your earliest mind,
fresh as a child's sleep,
old as dawn.**

**Chase the secret of semblance
in the haunting trees,
the mockery of the moor.**

**Plunge, slide down
the cleft of light
the laughter of the cliff,
and wonder
whether this land
out-forms your grace
or you out-form the land.**





BEFORE THE BEGINNING

It was
these cells, not those,
these parents, not others,
this heart, not that.

And I am fixed, fine.
Here. Now.
My clay heart beats
under Your potter's fingers.
And then
You breathe me, breathing You.

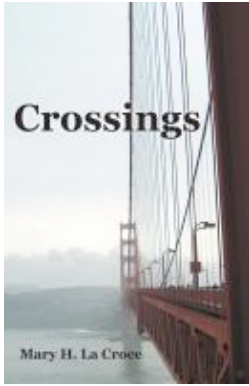
And I am fully formed,
a silt being
walking the earth,
wrestling the meaning
of this marriage
of clay and mystery.



NIGHTRIDER

Gentle king, you ride
the gilded groves of night.
Shadows tangled under the moss
flee from your hooves
and fall at my feet.
And I hide still afraid
to follow this journey
toward your silent abysses
cleaving this forest.

You ride, gentle king,
through my secret paths
slowly calling my name
while the incendiary void
still waits between vigilant trees
for you to guide me
there. Guide me
there.



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