

Three Poems

By Ron Seitz

Gethsemani Garden Giant Ginkgo

here
beneath this tree
seeing

October's
last light
sunning

far woods
flashing afire
wind gusts

blossoming full
these fan lit
Ginkgo leaves

breathing gold
to falling
petals

settling
silent
a lotus lap

with one
bright leaf
stilling

an open palm
raised empty
atop a knee

blessing



Ron Seitz

Ron Seitz is the author of numerous volumes of poetry, including *The Gethsemani Poems* and *Death Eat*, as well as a memoir of his friend Thomas Merton, *Song for Nobody*. These poems are taken from his work in progress, *Empty with Light – The Merton Poems*.

The Young, the Old, a Touch

The Last Romance of Thomas Merton

no, it is not love
that moves his hand
softly across
the curve of her cheek

touching the smile
that is youth
here and now
where he is not

since long having passed
beneath the tree branch
waving without shadow
its green leaves

as the sun
lighting her hair
warms her face
shining

at this moment too
seeming forever
though slowly
fading

into that place
still
this side
of darkness

just waiting
its while
to take
the both of them

neither
here
nor
now

Thomas Merton: Poet Apophatic

finally
let go of lines
as the deepsea diver
cutting the length of breath
afloat to the surface –
a serpentine flail upward

to drop deeper
downward to darkness
cold alone

the last of life
rising to burst
the water with air

saltwet lips opening wide
to the sun forever shunned

lost blank words
voiced from blackness

a solitary vision
silent say

an orphic monk
mute oracle

Janus-faced joy
ephemeral