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The Space Between Things

Poems by *Kevin Patrick Sullivan*



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Poetry



Praise for Kevin Patrick Sullivan's poetry:

"When Kevin Patrick Sullivan reads, you hear a Celtic courage, ageless and refreshing, singing in the lines. Kevin's voice reflects acuity of vision, vitality, honesty. His work ethic is inspiration for all poets, young and old. He is director of the nationally respected 'Corners Of the Mouth' readings at San Luis Obispo's venerable and beloved mecca of the arts, Linneas Café."

— **Ray Clark Dickson**, First Poet Laureate, city and county, San Luis Obispo

"Kevin Patrick Sullivan wakes up everyday in love with the world. He is an ecstatic descendent of Rumi, but his poems illuminate the roots of joy growing in a more difficult terrain. These spare light-filled hymns sing the praises of a sweet journeyman's everyday life—from working on the assembly line at the Ford Motor Plant in Detroit to simply acknowledging the sacred act of breathing. These poems prove that the mystic still walks among us, works with us side by side—mining exuberance in beautifully muddy boots."

— **Dian Sousa**, Current Poet Laureate, city of San Luis Obispo

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Cover and book design by Ben Lawless

Author's photograph by Joe Johnston

THE
SPACE
BETWEEN
THINGS

Poems

Kevin Patrick Sullivan

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*for Ray Clark Dickson, Glenna Luschei, Hernán Castellano Girón,
Anne Candelaria, Michael McLaughlin, Jane Elsdon, Gloria Velasquez,
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San Luis Obispo, Ca.*

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ASKEW: Open Air.

CAFÉ SOLO: The Space Between Things.

DUNE SPIRIT: Surfaces

HUMMINGBIRD: Palmer Canyon, Periphery, Realignment, A Sure Thing, Paroxysm, Holding Ground, The Poet's Way, Calligraphy, Life And Literature, Sleepers, The Bridge, and Up In It.

ILLUMINATIONS: Sea Blossoms, Morning's Kiss, Tigh Fili, Surfaces, Pathways, and After Chagall.

OFFERING THE THROAT- POEMS BY GLENNA LUSCHEI AND

KEVIN PATRICK SULLIVAN: Grace.

SOLO: My Dad's Brass Knuckles and How Much Light.

SOLO CAFÉ: I Offer My Voice, The Space Between Things, Calligraphy, November Rain, What They Do and Grace.

VOCE PIENA: Questions To My Little Brother Ly Doung.

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

FORPOETRY.COM: Surfaces, After Chagall, and Being Light

THE OTHER VOICES INTERNATIONAL PROJECT: Morning's Kiss, Whatever Is There, The Space Between Things, and Sleepers.

POETRY SUPER HIGHWAY BROADSIDE SERIES: The Space Between Things

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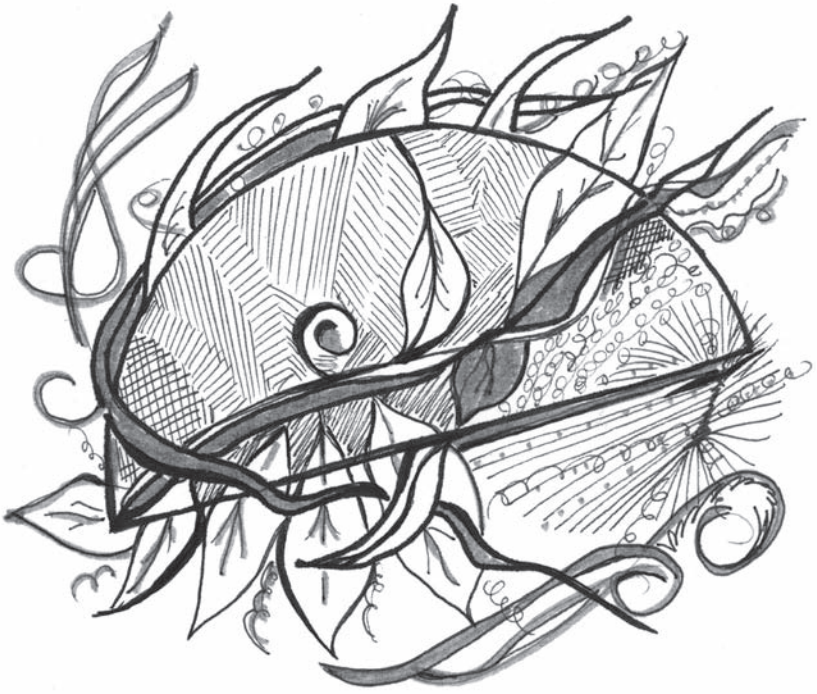
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I Offer My Voice

Energy is Eternal Delight

— WILLIAM BLAKE

Sea Blossoms

My mother has long wavy green hair
she slaps at my ankles
my thighs
she wants to break over my head
knock me down in the surf
give me a taste of blood
remind me
it's all the same
where she leaves off
and I begin
is only
a matter
of form.

Palmer Canyon

for Rick and Carol Surbeck

The great Tree Mother
encases me
embraces me
in her womb of shade
and shadow
dappled leaves of light
crown my head

I am welcomed back to the earth
to the song of flowing water
to the mystery of root — stem and leaf.

Morning's Kiss

In the morning
when things come easy
I listen to the wind
never underestimate the size
of the day
things blossom and change
with the light
such joy
percolates down the god rays
all my life is sweet
childlike
even work is a laugh

Release
let go

There is nothing like
breathing.

Born Again

The light
the leaves
the water
and you
I come everyday
for the light
for the leaves
for the water
for you

You
are my renewal.

The Groundsman

I come home
with bits of leaves
seedpods — clumps of earth
and sand
remnants of the day's work
in my pockets — stuck in my hair

I'm outdoors all day
wind and rain — sun
mostly under the sun —
occasionally and thankfully
in the shade

It's a new job
though I feel I'm a natural
after all —
what I work with
has been underfoot
or close at hand
all forty eight years
of my life.