

December 2009

## The Present

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### Recommended Citation

Iuppa, Mary J. (2009) "The Present," *Verbum*: Vol. 7 : Iss. 1 , Article 7.  
Available at: <https://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/verbum/vol7/iss1/7>

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## The Present

## **The Present**

1

Radiance on bare limbs,  
dawn's underbelly rises fiery salmon—  
Smudge of periwinkle and charcoal  
streaks this sky without winter.

2

Glint  
of silver-tipped wings, buoyant shadows,  
heartbeats  
against the wafer-thin moon.  
Cold rain.

3

Sudden cloud of steam,  
teakettle's high-pitched whistle:  
*here, here, here—*  
First orders of the day.

4

When I forget to breathe  
it startles me to see my breath  
in cold morning air.

5

Leafless woods, hushed and thin.  
Mourning doves drift slantwise  
through dark pines  
their heavy wings, unhinged.

6

Away— and gone.  
Silence collapses  
into the drip  
of rain.

***M.J.Iuppa***