



*(\*Artist credit: Kimberly Blaeser)*

## ***DIANNA MACKINNON HENNING***

**In the Collage of My Mind**

**I'm a Simple Design**

The years are rapt birds,  
trilling their delight,

no salt on their tongues  
no weights on their wings,

no rambunctious expletives  
in their voices,

not a single lofty sermon, only  
the width of stars in their throats.

My throat is a winding river,  
where words carry me

into the sanctity of all  
that flows no matter flood or drought.

I've learned to listen with my mouth.  
To make words with wings.

To carry myself without fear of what's ahead.

**Dianna Mackinnon Henning** taught through California Poets in the Schools, received several California Arts Council grants and taught poetry workshops through the William James Association's Prison Arts Program. Publications, in part: *The Tule Review*; *California Quarterly*; *That's a Pretty Thing to Call It: Prose and Poetry by Artists Teaching in Carceral Institutions* (New Village Press, 2023); *Mocking Heart Review*; *Artemis Journal*, 2021, 2022, 2023, and *The Adirondack Review*. 2021 nomination by *The Adirondack Review* for a Pushcart Prize. MFA in Writing '89, Vermont College. Fourth book, *Camaraderie of the Marvelous* (Kelsay Books 2021).