

8-11-2014

Two Poems: "North" and "The Venus Flytrap"

Souvankham Thammavongsa

 Part of the [Literature in English, North America Commons](#), [Nature and Society Relations Commons](#), [Place and Environment Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Follow this and additional works at / Suivez-nous ainsi que d'autres travaux et œuvres:

<https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose>

Recommended Citation / Citation recommandée

Thammavongsa, Souvankham. "Two Poems: "North" and "The Venus Flytrap"." *The Goose*, vol. 13 , no. 1 , article 33, 2014, <https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/vol13/iss1/33>.

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholars Commons @ Laurier. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Goose by an authorized editor of Scholars Commons @ Laurier. For more information, please contact scholarscommons@wlu.ca.

Cet article vous est accessible gratuitement et en libre accès grâce à Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Le texte a été approuvé pour faire partie intégrante de la revue The Goose par un rédacteur autorisé de Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Pour de plus amples informations, contactez scholarscommons@wlu.ca.

NORTH

It's the point a compass is always pointing

The part of a map that shows you are looking at the world in the right way

Upside down, it's still there, the same

It really matters only to the person who is lost, who needs to know where it is
they are and where it is they might need to be days or hours from now

It feels like some place you haven't been yet, a future, or some place you've
already been past

It reminds you, wherever you are, you aren't there even when you *are*

THE VENUS FLYTRAP

Where once stood water

Golden fish and bright sharp scales

A thing the shape of a question mark

Now stands

No longer greening

I didn't follow instructions

I touched its mouth, that opening there

And watched it close up

I gave it nothing

And it took that down like it was something

SOUVANKHAM THAMMAVONGSA has written three poetry books, the most recent of which is *Light* (Pedlar Press, 2013). *Light* won the 2014 Ontario Trillium Book Award.