Three Poems

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The Gulls

Those small cries—gulls in the distance—despairing. Every morning we hear them voice images from unremembered dreams. Such moods wing through us and fly off.

Now we are bereft, almost empty. As if at last a great wind had toppled the oak next door, the one that’s broken at the top. Such space where it stood.
The Gentlemen Are Back

They announce their return with truncated song—notes broken or stretched, tuneless. Insouciant in black hoods

and woodland grey cloaks, waistcoats the colour of tomato soup, they parade and strut, keeping a certain distance from each other. Transgress that distance and be greeted by flinging of arms, a sudden tantrum and holler.

Heads cocked, they dart and pause, listen and glean. They know you’re watching. Their sharp black eyes give nothing back.
Reflection (Great Egret)

thin long bird
meets itself
long white neck
darting to long white neck
retrieving the slender fish

hermit in ragged coat
treading the wavery
cloud-flecked blue sky
intent on what moves
below reflection
bird
lifts one foot
leans
and steps
then again
ruffling the muddy bottom
into ripple
and gap
expanding
long thin bird
wings exploding
takes flight
wings exploding
long thin bird
expanding
into ripple
and gap
ruffling
the muddy bottom
again
then steps
and leans
lifts one foot
above reflection
intent on what moves
in cloud-flecked sky

hermit in ragged coat
treads the wavery blue
retrieves a slender fish
long white neck
darting
to long white neck
thin long bird
meeting itself
MAUREEN SCOTT HARRIS, a Toronto-based poet and essayist, has published three collections of poetry: *A Possible Landscape* (Brick Books, 1993), *Drowning Lessons* (Pedlar Press, 2004), which was awarded the 2005 Trillium Book Award for Poetry, and *Slow Curve Out* (Pedlar Press, 2012). She has also published a chapbook, *Waters Remembered* (espresso, 2016).