

POETRY

# To the Alien Crops in the Marshy Fields

by Chanlee Luu



"Light Codes of the Fifth Dimension" by Ana Rincon

*After James Wright's "To the Saguaro Cactus Tree in the Desert Rain"*

I know the ugly duckling  
Cried deep into the night,  
Stuck in your thicket.

I have seen winding roads and rolling hills  
In the Country, wherever that may be.

Tall and golden in the afternoon sun.  
I cannot be the salted minerals  
That climb up your roots. I cannot be  
The beautiful swan who waddles out  
or the croak of a lonely frog.

I know you are mighty.  
I got tired in the library  
And I hated the musty smell;  
So I left.

You were the promise  
Of nature  
That I yearned.

Phragmites,  
You are not the one they anointed,  
Your yellow stalk flanks me.  
I am a foreign species, an invader —  
Member of your clan.