

# HELICON WEST & THE USU WRITING CENTER PRESENT

Photo: Darren Edwards

## Under Neruda's Wing

Cynthia Nordgren

At fifteen he dwelt in the dead poet's house by day and at his parents' home by night.

By day he dreamt of Pablo's surprise appearance:

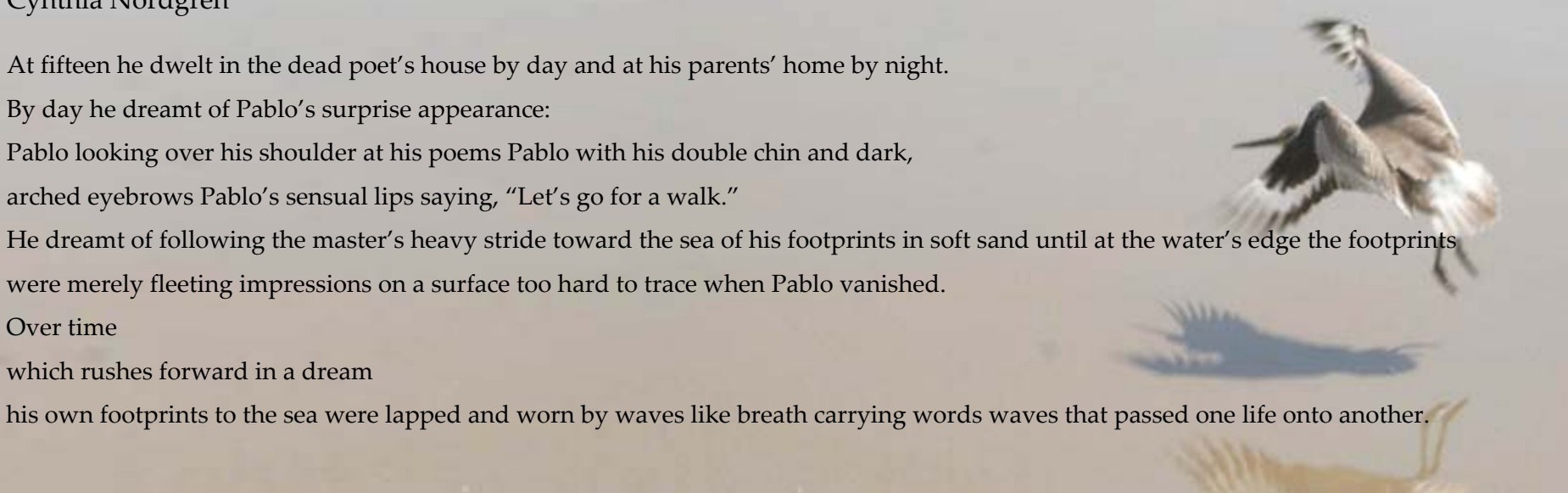
Pablo looking over his shoulder at his poems Pablo with his double chin and dark, arched eyebrows Pablo's sensual lips saying, "Let's go for a walk."

He dreamt of following the master's heavy stride toward the sea of his footprints in soft sand until at the water's edge the footprints were merely fleeting impressions on a surface too hard to trace when Pablo vanished.

Over time

which rushes forward in a dream

his own footprints to the sea were lapped and worn by waves like breath carrying words waves that passed one life onto another.



## Winter

Nancy Takacs

Beyond the bitterness and mildness of leaves that are endless after the flowering,

leaves left in sun to turn amber, in shade to hold their deep lavender, leaves always there

to be picked and lain finely on screens and watched for days in pagodas, in lotus gardens,

or cut thick as tobacco to dry on white sheets, or left loose in old frying pans

in the desert, to curl up and be taken in right away so their mint will still burn. Shaken everywhere

and onto any linen, apple and plum, chamomile's tiny gold sponge

To rub between forefinger and thumb, a cross between honey and medicine.

Beyond the calmness of an ancient pathless garden, where leaves must always be steeped for a long time

to be sipped in small cups, longer than our memory. Beyond hot scones, and sunflower toast, and bookstores,

and teahouses, and transparent bags left out late, the damp nighty-nights of valerian, root and stem

of raspberry, never any berries, just a hint of sweet red and bristle, deep, capable, settling us in January, not wishing

for any first leaf. Beyond Belleek's

proper shapes to lift with taut fingers held in small waterfalls, to breathe in, then become

the elderberry, the blue night, the bees, the rose, the cure.

Helicon West invites you to share our open mic nights every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7:00 PM at Citrus and Sage, 130 North 100 East, Logan, Utah.

Broadside Co-editors: Darren Edwards, Cynthia Harmon, and JP Peterson  
Sponsored by the Helicon West Planning Committee and the USU Writing Center  
For more information on community broadsides contact [star.coulbrooke@usu.edu](mailto:star.coulbrooke@usu.edu)