

# Floating in Land (for Robin Poitras) Dave Margoshes

They put chains around your legs  
but you slipped free and danced.  
They tied you to poles, put lead weights  
around your shoulders but you shrugged  
and wriggled, and you danced. They nailed  
your feet to the smooth boards of the stage  
but you smiled through the pain, left  
footprints like lipstick kisses where you  
deigned to touch down, falling back  
into yourself. Chains again - they  
wrapped you in them, padlocks, then  
like Houdini, into a safe, the combination  
thrown away, the safe lifted by a crane  
into a tank of water in which fish of the  
most brilliant colours swam, as if to taunt you.  
But again you made the impossible look easy,  
amazing the fish. In the water, you grew  
gills and fins, as in the air you would  
affect the use of wings. Floating in land, you  
transformed it into water, into air,  
into fire.

Floating in Land  
Dave Margoshes

Dave Margoshes is a fiction writer and poet who lives in Regina but is spending this year in Saskatoon as writer in residence at the public library. His Most recent books are *Purity of Absence*, a collection of poetry published in 2001, and *I'm Frankie Sterne*, a novel which came out in 2000. He has published two other books of poetry and five others of fiction.