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PATRICIA A. MONTURE

News flash

just heard on the cbc
as I drove
they now shot
a
wheat seed
                into space
germinating in zero gravity.
experiment, ah-hunh.

World's gone crazy
some damned crazy
them white people be

natural law
power of mother earth
she won't like much
I think
that wheat seed, done taken
out of the circle of her law
of life
of sustaining

done gone crazy
gonna get worse

Patricia Monture is a citizen of the Mohawk Nation, Grand River Territory. She is a passionate advocate for Indigenous people. Her award-winning publications include Thunder in My Soul *and* Journeying Forward: Dreaming First Nations Independence.

JANICE CAMERON

Desert Woman

O, desert woman
you patiently wait

to lose weight
to tongue that mouth
to smoke dope
to find that story
to eat cake
to look in the mirror
to taste first snow
to board that plane
to cry your water

O, desert woman
don't wait

I will eat your thorns
drink your wine
chant your song
shake your rattle
paint your nails
comb your hair
harvest your garden
straddle your buckskin
bleed your water

O, desert woman
you broke the sleep of the seed!

the surge of sun
melts you
down between your legs the moisture
drips stars
to the flood of sky
the wildflowers are wet in your mouth

O, desert woman

Janice Cameron is a Cree woman from Saddle Lake. She currently lives in Saskatoon with her husband and daughter. She is on a sabbatical from the University of Calgary to work on a manuscript.