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## Kimono

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## Goodfellow: Kimono

KIMONO

Jessica Goodfellow

Your dead mother's kimono fades in blue  
chrysanthemum and shaded green leaf,  
but you have only one word for both  
dolorous colors. Never mind.

Many seaside dwellers draw no  
line between watery hues,  
unsurprised by the vagaries  
of the salty kaleidoscope.  
Shifts of light, angle, distance,  
even wind can gust green  
from the purest cerulean blue.

Time, too, is as fluid  
as a noose. What's blue  
doesn't stay blue any more  
than what's past.  
Every New Year you unfold  
your mother's empty kimono.  
Every morning you rise  
on your island of Now,  
surrounded by blue blue Time.

*Note: Traditionally the Japanese language had only one word, aoi, for both blue and green. During the Heian Period, a word for green, midori, came into usage, although it was considered a shade of blue rather than its own color. It was during the post-World War II occupation of Japan that educational materials influenced by the West made a clear distinction between blue and green, though even today some kinds of vegetation are still called "aoi," and green stoplights are also said to be "blue." Most other green objects are nowadays referred to as "midori." This grouping of blue and green into one category is common in many other cultures as well.*