

FALLEN MOON FALLEN STARS

*"Who if I cried out would hear me among  
the angelic orders?" Rilke*

Once upon a time there is

a little girl  
who lives in a little corner  
of her own little world  
with other little boys and girls  
just a little north of the border

in a big big cage

where high hopes have gone south  
falling like orphaned arrows from the sky  
into the heart of Mother Earth

Outside the cage  
the demon badges burn  
as they patrol bruited their control  
in the harsh, relentless imperial fluorescence  
of her chain-linked home

away from home

where children are held close  
and lied to closer  
and sworn to closest

that farthest from the truth  
they  
have been deserted  
and that no matter how hard their naked eyes  
would look  
there is no "...lamp beside the golden door..."

And yet  
the little girl's power  
is a light  
she daydreams  
at night  
reclaiming her name Maria Elena

Maria Elena  
Maria Elena

there are no windows here  
only the rude blank intimacy  
of a Wall

In a corner of this world  
She draws and colors

The Wall, like a cave painting  
is the screen  
upon which she streams her dreams  
of making the unseen seen

this is where a square of light  
softens rounds and fans  
to that patch of meadow  
in the moonlight  
beside the white house  
she left

such a deft saving and necessary landscape

then  
in the jailed heart of things she prays to The Virgin  
"Santa Maria Madre de Dios..."  
"Santa Maria Madre de Dios..."  
"Santa Maria Madre de Dios..."

she grows strong angel wings  
and rises  
"Santa Maria Madre de Dios..."  
to hover above the sleeping silver Mylar huddle  
of her blanketed brothers and sisters of other mothers  
"Santa Maria Madre de Dios..."  
"Santa Maria Madre de Dios..."

but then  
for all she is allowed to know beyond the cage  
the sun rises

in the West  
and sets in the East

the moon and all the stars  
have fallen to the ground

waking to the whim of strangers  
her momma lost for now  
"Santa Maria Madre de Dios..."  
she sees Heaven  
upside down

*Chuck Sullivan 5 April 2019*