

## Awakening

Above the promenade  
the swallows soar and squabble  
their slight, lithe bodies  
wheel and tumble  
as if to shake away  
the siege of winter's clutch

to awaken lost and longed for touch  
and scatter seeds of song and laughter  
that we may dance, skate, scooter  
jog and walk the dog  
into the promise of spring

Thank you bay  
Thank you sun  
Thank you wind  
Thank you sky  
Thank you Ohlone and Chochenyo ancestors  
May your blessings  
rock and carry us  
through this blight of war and plague  
that we may heed  
the pelican's prophecy  
the hummingbird's heralding  
of cherry, plum and jacaranda blossoms  
and bloom us  
into belonging

where the sea meets the land  
where the heart meets the sky  
where we strive to dance  
a dance of connection  
consideration, reflection  
and restore our care  
of the land  
and one another

-Kimi Sugioka