

## Life in Suspension: La Vie Suspendue

**Hélène Cardona**

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Devotedly Euro-American, schooled in language, literature, verse, acting, and the working parts of script, Hélène Cardona first wrote this bilingual collection in English and then delivered the French translation. A citizen of the United States, France, and Spain, she earned a master's degree in American Literature from the Sorbonne and fellowships from the Goethe-Institut and Universidad Internacional de Andalucia. En passant, Cardona's movie-star beauty pales next to her writing and intellect.

### *Woodwork*

*If I could gather all the sadness of the world,  
all the sadness inside me  
into a gourd,  
I'd shake it once in a while  
and let it sing,  
let it remind me of who I used to be,  
bless it for what it taught me  
and stare at it lovingly  
for not seeping out of its container.*

### *Travail d'orfèvre*

*Si je pouvais rassembler toute la tristesse du monde  
toute la tristesse enfouie en mon sein  
à l'intérieur d'une gourde,  
je la secouerais de temps en temps  
pour qu'elle chante  
et me rappelle qui j'étais.  
Je la bénirais pour ce qu'elle m'a appris  
et la regarderais avec amour  
pour qu'elle ne s'échappe pas de son récipient.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (Fall 2016)

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