Stephanie Strickland: Poem [1]

March 28, 2016   Math Poetry [2]

Islands (Invaginated by Saltwater
Bays with a Stream and Another Both Flowing
All Through Them along Enfolded Paths)

Every bit
lies on the border of three countries,
is a 3-country corner.

Swamp, as it stands
between the land and the water, delta drained by a river-
tree, water/water-shed.

Properties of parts?
Or their articulation: Eiffel Tower
airy strong, keys of strength in the branch points.

Worn away, like coral,
like reef.
So

entirely worn
that body vanishes, all innerness outerness: rules
invent this

on the plane, in space.
Mandelbrot . . . *not want to waste any data,*
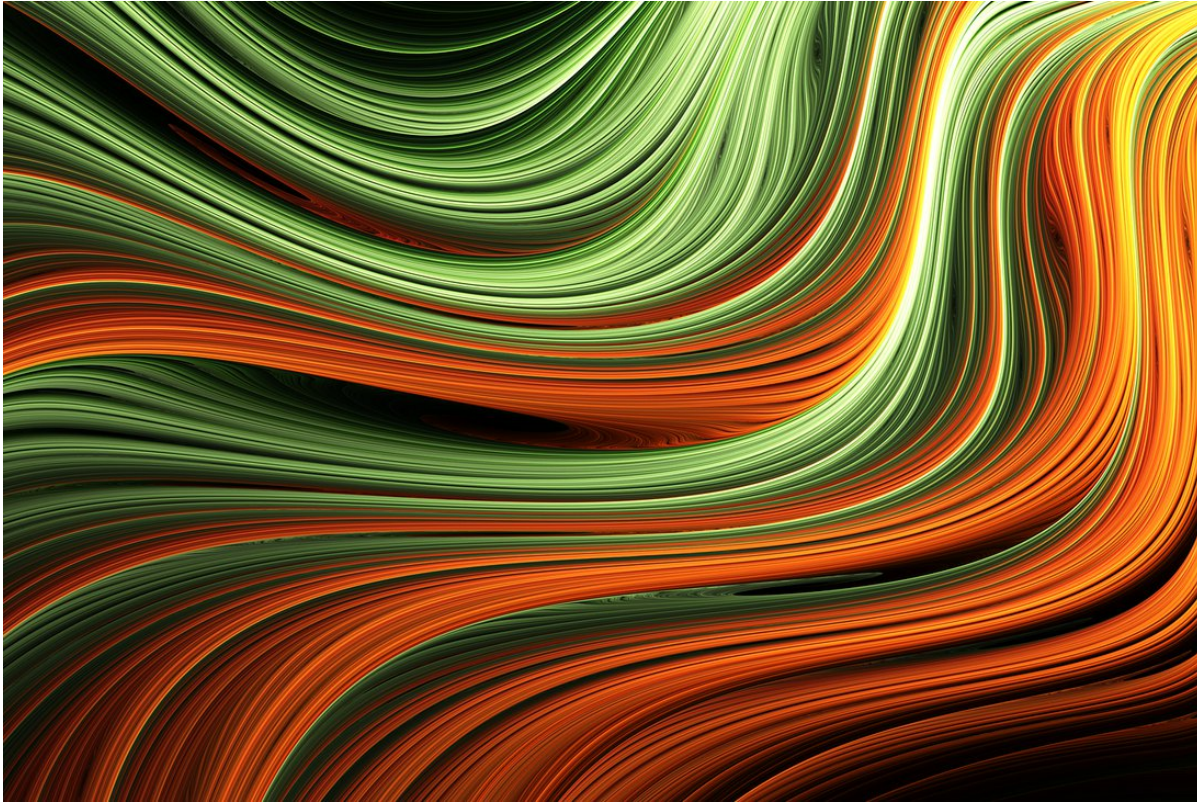*plotted all we had. Distressing.*

Our eyes—
we found it hard to discriminate landscapes
we knew to be significantly

different . . . . We should have
remembered . . . to assess motion,
one needs rest . . . . One needs that standard

and the same is true of roughness.
Every bit
on 3 frontiers: on the banks of the branchy

Bronchiole, the swollen Artery
and that bluest, darkest
river, Vein.

Publishing Information

- Mandelbrot language in italics is from *The Fractal Geometry of Nature* by Benoit B. Mandelbrot (Freeman, 1982). Sentences have been excerpted and slightly paraphrased.

Art Information

- "Single Wave" [3] © Niels Langeveld; used by permission.

Stephanie Strickland has published eight books of print poetry, among them *True North* and *Dragon Logic*. Her latest, *V : WaveTercets / Losing L'una*, is accompanied by the Vniverse app for iPad, created with Ian Hatcher. She has collaborated on ten digital poems, most recently *House of Trust* and *Hours of the Night*. A member of the Board of Directors of the Electronic Literature Organization, she coedited *Electronic Literature Collection Volume 1*.

For more information about her work, see Stephanie Strickland's website [4].

Stephanie will read at TW's panel "Wild Equations: A Math Poetry Reading" [5] for the AWP 2016 conference in Los Angeles.

This poem appeared in an earlier version in Zone : Zero *(Ahsahta Press, 2008).*

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