

[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.*

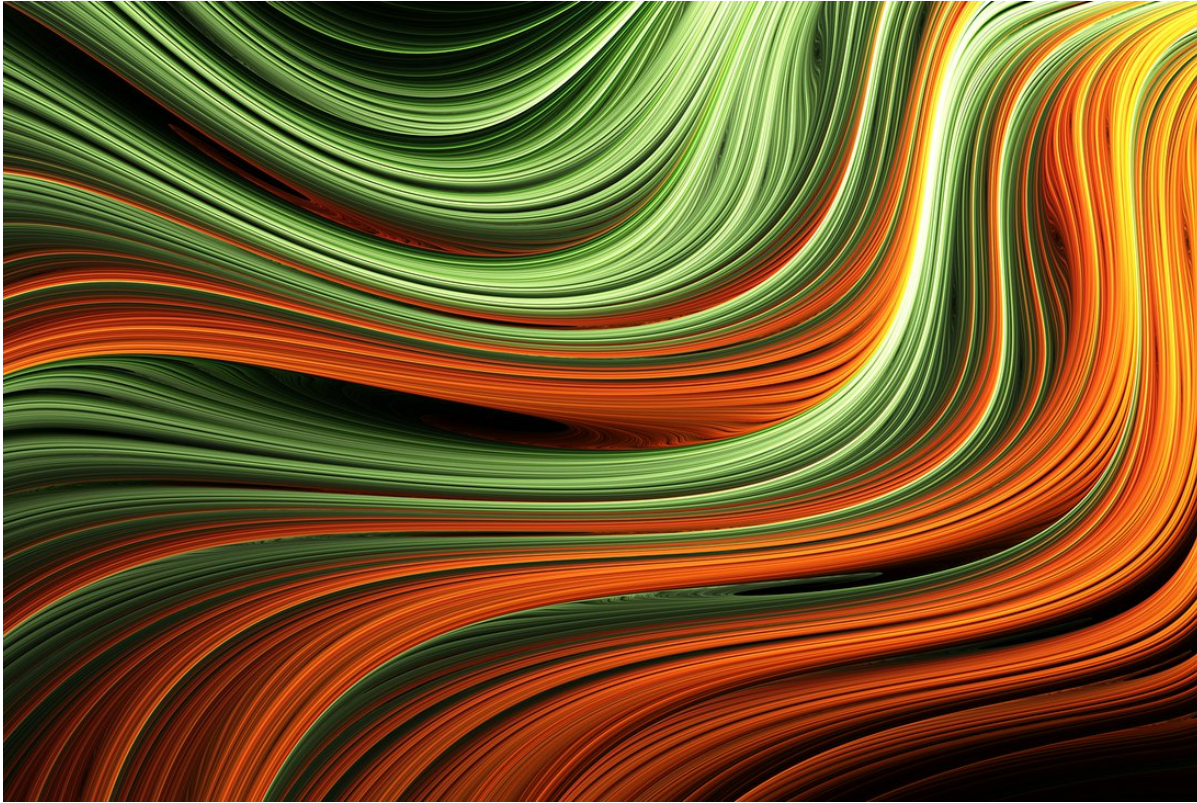
*Our eyes—*  
*we found it hard to discriminate landscapes*  
*we knew to be significantly*

*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.



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### 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: Poem

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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 (Ahsakta Press, 2008).*

**Source URL:** <https://talkingwriting.com/stephanie-strickland-poem>

### Links:

[1] <https://talkingwriting.com/stephanie-strickland-poem>

[2] <https://talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/spotlight-math-poetry>

[3] <http://piethein21.deviantart.com/art/Single-Wave-532433725>

[4] <http://stephaniestrickland.com>

[5] [https://www.awpwriter.org/awp\\_conference/event\\_detail/5527](https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/event_detail/5527)