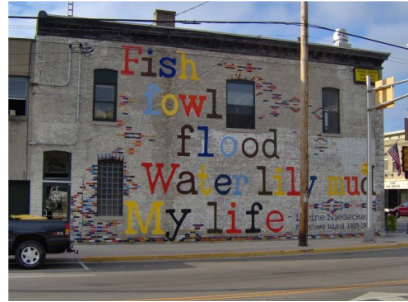




Photo by Sharon Auberle

*Fall*

We must pull  
the curtains—  
we haven't any  
leaves



Fish  
fowl  
flood  
Water lily mud  
My life

in the leaves and on water  
My mother and I  
born  
in swale and swamp and sworn  
to water

My father  
thru marsh fog  
sculled down  
from high ground  
saw her face

at the organ  
bore the weight of lake water  
and the cold—  
he seined for carp to be sold  
that their daughter

might go high  
on land  
to learn  
Saw his wife turn  
deaf

and away  
She  
who knew boats  
and ropes  
no longer played



The death of my poor father  
leaves debts  
and two small houses.

To settle this estate  
a thousand fees arise—  
I enrich the law.

Before my own death is certi-  
fied,  
recorded, final judgement  
judged

taxes taxed  
I shall own a book  
of old Chinese poems

and binoculars  
to probe the river  
trees.



You are the man  
You are my other county  
and I find it hard going

You are the prickly pear  
You are the sudden violent  
storm

the torrent to raise the river  
to float the wounded doe

*Lorine Niedecker*  
(1903 - 1970)

has been called the poet of place because her imagery is so grounded in the area where she lived. Basil Bunting called her "the Emily Dickenson of this century." As an objectivist poet, the simplicity of her images helps us sense our own experiences with the elements around us. Lorine was strongly affected by her life on Blackhawk Island, surrounded by water. Her words weave the textures of her culture, family and neighbors. Though she is nationally and internationally known, Wisconsin is still learning about her significance as a respected poet ranked among the 20th-century's finest.

*Lorine Niedecker*  
*Wisconsin's Poet*  
*Of Place*

Visit

[www.lorineniedecker.org](http://www.lorineniedecker.org)  
for biography, poetry,  
pictures, audio and video.

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