



In moonlight lies
the river passing--
it's not quiet
and it's not laughing.

I'm not young
and I'm not free
but I've a house of my own
by a willow tree.

Fall

Early morning corn
shock quick river
edge ice crack duck
talk

Grass's dry membranous
breaks tick-tack tiny
wind strips

Woman with Umbrella

Lonely woman, not prompted
by freshness from the sky
to run with friends and laugh it off,
arrives unsparkling but dry—

she's felt the prongs of her own advance
thru the crowded street,
knows that lonely
she is dangerous to meet.

Swept snow, Li Po,
by dawn's 40-watt moon
to the road that hies to office
away from home.

Tended my brown little stove
as one would a cow—she gives heat.
Spring—marsh frog-clatter peace
breaks out.

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
for biography, poetry,
pictures, audio and video.

Friends of Lorine Niedecker
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