

## Star God Maple

Keith Waterland

A red and yellow leaf  
floated to the ground—  
A painted star god  
returning to earth.

Another one:  
fire bright orange  
and purple,  
let go of its place in the heavens  
where it converted light to energy  
softly slipping  
slowly descending  
gliding and alighting  
with other  
solar stained  
star god maples.

The north wind  
whispers and roars,  
spilling star gods  
across the sky  
twirling and floating  
piling on the ground  
where they return to the earth  
crunched into nutrients  
for those who will come  
to smile with  
yellow blue abandon  
with their faces  
warm in the sun.