

## BRUCE WILLEY

*Lone Leaf*, 2016  
Archival Print, 24 x 16 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

## FRANK PAINO

### Luna Moth

You will know two kinds of hunger,  
the first, a smaller sadness—  
a reciprocal thing that bends  
the stave of your long, green days  
toward splayed leaves of sweet gum,  
fronds of walnut and smooth sumac  
that will invoke, after long weeks  
of exhortation, your exquisite  
metamorphosis.

This is the hunger that drives you  
to feed without ceasing,  
not *as if* you cannot get enough  
but simply *because*—  
the hunger that will make you  
spin around each viridian segment  
of yourself a silken winding sheet  
so you become, at last,  
your own still ghost  
sealed within the perfect artifice,  
a single leaf from the tree  
in whose branches you will sleep  
until you wake  
to a strange annunciation  
that splits along the hardened seam  
of your solitude, calls you back  
into a world of night,  
your mouth not sealed  
but vanished, like a terrible wound  
whose only bequest is a scar  
pale and ravishing as a falling star.

What's left for you will be  
the lot of every hungry ghost.

This is the second hunger,  
which is the killing kind.  
It will ransom  
the sawtooth mandible  
for sea-foam wings whose blind eyes  
face the stolen light  
of your namesake moon  
while you drift, luminous,  
insomniac with desire,  
through the seven dwindling nights  
that are your destiny.

**Frank Paino** was the recipient of an Ohio Arts Council 2016 Individual Excellence Award. His poem "Skeleton Lake" was recently selected as the winner of the 2016 Crab Orchard Review Special Feature Award. "If There is Such a Thing as Mercy" was selected as a finalist in the 2016 Briar Cliff Review Annual Writing Contest and will be published in that journal in 2017. Poet Marge Piercy selected his poem "Armageddon" for Special Merit in the *Comstock Review's* 2016 Muriel Craft Bailey Contest. He is currently at work on his fourth poetry manuscript.