

JOELLE BIELE

Speaks at Assumption College
Thursday, Nov 7th, 7:30 pm
The Testa Science Center Auditorium

Joelle Biele is the author of *White Summer* and the editor of *Elizabeth Bishop and The New Yorker: The Complete Correspondence*.

A Fulbright scholar in Germany and Poland, she has received awards from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Poetry Society of America. Her essays and fiction appear in *American Poetry Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Harvard Review*, and *New England Review*.

She has taught American literature and creative writing at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, Goucher College, the University of Oldenburg, Germany, and Jagiellonian University, Poland



AUTUMN

I think it was October, November,
morning, dark, along a bend in the Wolf
or Wisconsin Rivers, and I am seven

or eight, and we are sitting on the cold hood of
my father's car, the first days
of the fall migration, and I am sure

it was the long-necked cranes, nothing like the
cranes I folded from paper
at school. I know the changed leaves muddy

the water, and the marsh grass, dry,
lost, takes on a kind of metal brilliance,
hard from the river, and the early sun.

I am tired and want to go back
in the car, the radio night, far from here,
and I am thinking of my mobile,

the birds I tied to a hanger,
triangle out of triangle, wing, neck, spine,
their bodies full of air. I don't hear the wings,

I don't hear the calls, only the rush
of cattails, mildew, ferns, and a sky
full of birds. It was like a giant string

pulled them up, could pull me into the air,
a wingspan bigger than my boy's body,
into the pull of earth turning, the rhythm

of light, the pattern of stars, a map,
a grid, a night city or late orchard
I could hide in, apples filled with stars.

---from *White Summer*

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