Mother Tree in Franklin Canyon

three long majestic trunks spread like loving arms
from a base so strong, endlessly holding up the sky
you welcome me every time i visit
and lay my troubles on the bed of your skin
it's so easy to soak up the light through your lacy canopy
to live in an altered space for a little while
your reliable presence helps me find the divine mother
never absent, never overbearing
you are my pillar
giving spacious sure strength
while others have fallen from their duties
you step in ready to love and cherish all
highways of busy ants
stashes of squirrel nuts
pairs of camouflaged birds
you are the shelter for any lost child

photographer: Kayte Deioma

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Jen Cheng is the current Poet Laureate of West Hollywood, author of a poetry collection *Braided Spaces*, and a California Arts Council Fellow. She is a multidisciplinary artist who blends East-West cultural influences as Feng Shui Poetry. With stories for tween audiences, mystery detective fans, and queer love, Jen is a cross-pollinator and community curator. Connect with her on social media @JenCvoice or at www.JenCvoice.com

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