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After the Explosion

Laurel Blossom

All the water mains burst
Forth, singing
The rats ran
Everywhere, squealing in
Rhyme, and the cockroaches

Tweeted to their neighbors, while
Heaven turned itself into Hell on
Earth. From where the sky had been

Each star bored into the ground like an
X-ray so that the
Ploughed fields were pockmarked with
Lozenges of lead, everyone could smell the
Ozone that sparked from electrical
Systems hissing and twitching, while
In the apartment, the purple pot stood
On the windowsill, holding the
Nasturtiums.

Photo by Steven Haas

LAUREL BLOSSOM's chapbook *Un-* was published by Finishing Line Press in March 2020. Both of Blossom's book-length narrative prose poems, *Longevity* (2015) and *Degrees of Latitude* (2007) were published by Four Way Books. Lyric collections include *Wednesday: New and Selected Poems, The Papers Said, What's Wrong*, and an earlier chapbook, *Any Minute*. A third chapbook, *That Was Then*, is currently a Finalist in the Open Country Poetry contest. Blossom has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, and Harris Manchester College (Oxford University). She served as the first ever Poet Laureate of Edgefield, South Carolina from 2015-2017. She lives in Los Angeles. Visit her website at www.laurelblossom.com