Cobalt Poets Series # 584 ~ August 29, 2023

Vacant

Denise K. Lajimodiere

Windows watch me
drive by, filmy eyes,
gauzy lace curtains
tear and billow in the wind
waving to passersby
in gentle despair.
No roads lead to it,
only well-tended fields
of soybeans,
a yarny blanket.
The house sleeps quietly
unraveling its history
through broken glass dreams.

Denise is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota. She has been involved in education for forty-four years as an Elementary teacher, Principal, and professor, earning her Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees from University of North Dakota. Dr. Lajimodiere is a retired Associate Professor from the School of Education, Ed. Leadership program, North Dakota State University, Fargo. She is one of the founders of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (N-NABS-HC). Denise is a poet – *Dragonfly Dance; Thunderbird; Bitter Tears; His Feathers Were Chains*; Children's book author, *Josie Dances*, and academic book author, *Stringing Rosaries: The History, The Unforgivable, The Healing of Northern Plains Boarding School Survivors*. Denise was recently named as North Dakota state Poet Laureate. She is the first Native American to hold that position. Denise is a traditional Jingle Dress dancer, Ojibwe Birch Bark Biting artist, and lives in a cozy cottage by a lake on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation.