

POETS RESPOND TO PRINTS

January 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., Channing Peake Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

David Starkey

David Starkey served as Santa Barbara's 2009-2010 Poet Laureate and is Director of the Creative Writing Program at Santa Barbara City College. His poetry has appeared in many journals, including *The American Scholar*, *The Georgia Review* and *The Southern Review*, and in seven full-length collections, most recently *Like a Soprano*, an episode-by-episode revisioning of *The Sopranos* television series.

Alive in Wild Places

You are nothing less
than the world you inhabit—
your wide, dreary eyes
like double-moons encircled by clouds,
your cheekbones winter-
scoured ridges running above the tree line,
your skin as rough as glacial scree.

In the valley far below, a river snakes
toward the ocean's certainty,
but here wind scrapes the sky
like a violin
playing the melody of some popular song
stripped to its bare bones.

You move your cracked lips to speak,
then don't,
your face stunned
by age and loss
into appalling beauty.



Alive in Wild Places by Patricia Post