

**"Under the Microscope" and "Murmuration", by Elena Lelia Radulescu**

**UNDER THE MICROSCOPE**

At her laboratory desk,  
she marvels at the sight  
of one-celled fungi,  
chameleonic shape  
and barely a mass  
wiggling,  
    pulsating,  
shifting under  
    the magnifying glass.

She thinks of aimless clouds  
across the summer sky,  
shapes morphing  
from cauliflower  
to foaming milk  
spilt over the mountain  
Inside,  
the skittish water molecules  
pull,  
    turn,  
    and stir—  
a chaos at the mercy  
of cold winds or heat waves  
and yet,  
for her,  
    a call for meditation.

## MURMURATION

*Due to the climate change,  
the natural phenomenon murmuration  
has become a rare event*

Consider yourself lucky  
if you see  
the starlings' Dervish Dance,  
twirling,  
gliding,  
swooping,  
moving as a living whole  
across the sky.

Breath stealing wonder,  
this allegro shape in flight,  
this scarf wrapped loose  
around a slender steeple,  
grace morphed  
into a floating furrow  
above the fields,  
this beauty  
of synchronization  
has become  
a *Rara Avis* in itself.

**Elena Lelia Radulescu** is a Romanian-American writer. Her poetry, essays and short stories have been published by *Visions International*, *Square Lake Review*, *The Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Chelsea*, *Karamu*, *CALYX Journal*, *Trajectory Journal*, *The Cape Rock Review*, *Magnolia Journal*, *Gastronomica Journal*, *Third Wednesday Journal*, *Concho River Review*, *Ocotillo Journal*, *Voices de la Luna*, *Evening Street Journal*, and other literary publications.