Somewhere I Have Never Travelled

Carl Leggo

I want to be a verb, since for too long I have been written a noun only, but no longer satisfied with being the name, the namer, the named,
I want to name endlessly, be the verb’s verve

like Rita’s photographs, poetry pushes at edges into spaces where language refuses clarity, coherence, composition, even comprehensibility, amidst literally infinite alliterative possibilities

like holograms, the part in the whole, rhizome connections in the earth, the sheer certitude of everything spilling and spelling out in fractal inevitability

as poems refuse to be consumed, preclude
easy access, even a ready location for readers
who are invited to find, if they can, their positions
for responding in a tantalizing textualizing

as poems invite the words to flow around
the reader, even in and through the reader
who must surrender the desire to hold the text
in place, must carry the memory of mystery

and sift the fragments like hypertextual links
to somewhere untracked to other places,
like e. e. cummings, somewhere i have never
travelled, gladly beyond

About the Author

Carl Leggo is a poet and professor in the Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of British Columbia where he teaches courses in English language arts education, writing, and narrative research. His poetry and fiction and scholarly essays have been published in many journals in North America and around the world. He is the author of three collections of poems: Growing Up Perpendicular on the Side of a Hill, View from My Mother’s House (Killick Press, St. John’s), and Come-By-Chance (Breakwater Books, St. John’s), as well as a book about reading and teaching poetry: Teaching to Wonder: Responding to Poetry in the Secondary Classroom (Pacific Educational Press, Vancouver).