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## Early Sunglow

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KAREN ERICKSON

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## Early Sunglow

Hot sun heavy on the back of my neck  
I reach out to part the broad rustling leaves.  
Like columns in an ancient temple

the stalks thrust up in the late summer sky  
as the silks cascade down, yellow to brown  
and even black. I pull discreetly on a husk –

kernels still white lie hushed and austere  
nestled in their promise of plump succulence.  
I close the parchment around the tip again

brush golden dust from my arms  
hands empty and mouth eager for the first  
sunny pop from the ripe, steaming ears

of the sweet  
corn.

*Karen Erickson is Academic Dean and Professor of French.*