

## **Skywriting**

By Miriam Sagan

September courtyard  
Bound in cloud, sunset, contrail  
The tiny plane  
Shaped like a new  
Hard edged consonant  
And the yellow cowpen daisies  
That replicate--  
And every phrase  
A missionary  
To convert you  
To beauty.

Set by hand,  
Read upsidedown,  
Italic Perpetua  
For an intimate quarrel, a lover's endearment  
Lydian bold, sans serif  
As if without angels  
Or cat's paws  
Or little feet to run away on...  
Newland chiseled like the rock  
And the day's words, bound so they won't escape  
In snakeskin, spume, or snail slime.

Printing at night  
In the back  
Rebellion, and the call  
To uprising, or change  
Of season--  
In the dark,  
Running off  
The secret manifestos  
Of the heart.



MIRIAM SAGAN is the author of over a dozen books. Among her poetry collections are *The Widow's Coat* (Ahsahta Press, 1999), *The Art Of Love* (La Alameda Press, 1994), *Pocahontas Discovers America* (Adastra, 1993), *True Body* (Parallax Press, 1991), and *Aegean Doorway* (Zephyr, 1984).

With her guidance, 22 emerging writers completed a writing workshop, Museum As Muse, a “Lasting Impressions” event at the Palace of the Governors, September 2006, presented with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Some of their writing appears on the website designed for *Lasting Impressions: The Private Presses of New Mexico*: [www.privatepress.org](http://www.privatepress.org) under “Endnotes.”