

# You Don't Need To

*by* Aline Carriere

Be heard above the gulls cackle  
Cawing crows, rabble  
You need to hear your heart,  
An audience of one.

You don't need praise, affirmation.  
Offer your heart wrapped, cosseted  
Strip layers, immediate  
To one who understands

All my poems are love poems  
Thrown to the world, the wind  
Scattered like acorns  
Crushed except for one

Who finds beauty in the shape  
Perfected crown, how it clings  
And lets go. You need  
Only one who notices.

