

# Don't Ask Me to Collaborate

*by* Gary Hardaway

I won't collaborate in poems.  
Except with the language I was born to.  
Occasionally, with painters and collagists-

dead now, typically- who can't voice  
opposition to my misappropriations.  
Sometimes, with other poets-

usually dead like the painters-  
whose trusts and executors don't  
know me to complain of thievery,

insolence or misinterpretation.  
And, very often with the world  
and the space and stars with which

it falls towards something. No,  
I won't collaborate despite  
my persistence otherwise.

