

## A Cento for the City

*Susan Elizabeth Sweeney*

In Worcester, Massachusetts,  
the old neighborhood remains.  
Those strangers are my friends.  
How had I come to be here,  
like them? The question stays  
in the city out of tune. I throw this bridge  
across, writing these poems!

*Note:* The poem was constructed out of lines from Elizabeth Bishop, “In the Waiting Room”; Mary Fell, “The Prophecy”; Stanley Kunitz, “My Mother’s Pears”; Charles Olson, “An Ode on Nativity”; Christopher Gilbert, “This Bridge Across”; and Frank O’Hara, “Autobiographia Literaria,” for the opening of The Poem Next Door exhibit at the Museum of Worcester, May, 2025.