

Paula Yup

Ars Poetica

For Benjamin Perez

I don't know any more
have I wasted forty or fifty years
a young child
writing "Colors" in class
that lost poem
when I knew
or high school I wrote every day
or on Tokyo trains
I'd write in small books
other lost poems
or in the Marshall Islands
writing for workshops
the few of us who cared about poetry
or reading in front of kids
Nowadays it's a matter of
catch it if I can
or on the road
or today at Atticus
drinking decaf