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## After Muriel Rukeyser's "Islands"

Katherine McCord

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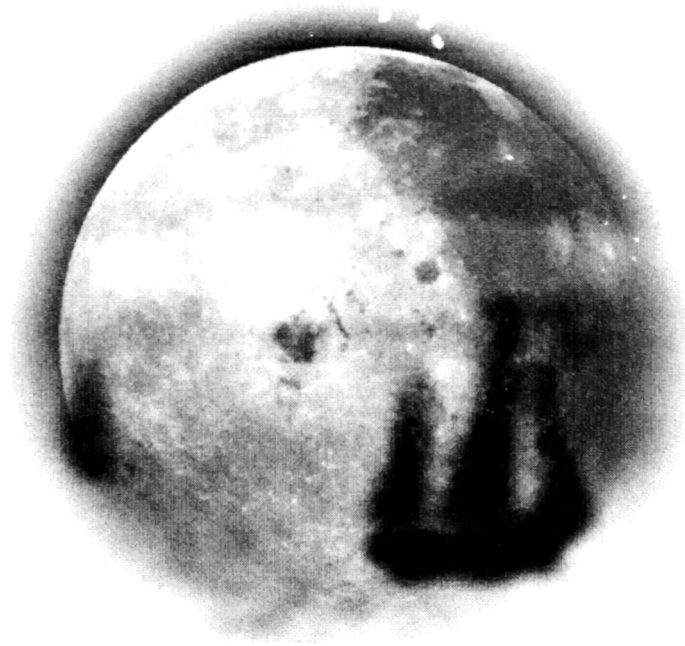
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# After Muriel Rukeyser's "Islands"

by Katherine McCord

But water surrounds.  
It's not as if you can  
climb down.  
Boat to boat, you're asking,  
*swim? sail?*  
After all, swimming is all  
luck. We have no gills,  
and islands are all light.  
Escape that.  
Blue is  
someone else's in.  
Even the moon, round and perfect,  
and born of dark,  
lies  
on water  
because it has nowhere  
else to go.



*Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall*

