

# Medicinal Purposes

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CONNIE GOODMAN

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Cover:

"*Holiday Palm*" by Connie Goodman

*Medicinal Purposes*

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## The Artists

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## Our International Contributors

Anna Citrino, Singapore; Giovannia Malito, Ireland

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scholar's den,  
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*Barry Wallenstein*

## NOT A SERIOUS POET

I can't be a serious poet  
 because I laugh too hard at  
     knock knock jokes.  
 I'm as serious a poet  
 as I am a woman, mother, lover,  
     wife,  
 teacher, counselor, 32 year old,  
 toilet scrubbing, dinner cooking,  
 underpaid and overweight,  
 neck kissing, tickling,  
 running towards you with my  
     arms wide,  
 banana bread baking,  
 baby food feeding, backrub giving,  
 mah jong declining, homework  
     helping,  
 no head in the oven sorry Sylvia,  
 human.

— *Mati Sicherer*

## THERE ARE THESE SMALL SUCCESSSES

There are these small successes,  
like sweet chocolate in my pocket,  
hot and sticky on my fingers,  
I will eat them later, in secret,  
away from the women who are just  
like me,  
picking up their kids from school,  
driving carpool, going shopping,  
small secrets I carry,  
sweet candy that is, a poem here,  
another there,  
sucking them slowly,  
a private dance, these small successes,  
melted chocolate in my pocket,  
sweet fingerprinted portraits on the  
wall.

— *Mati Sicherer*

RYN GARGULINSKI