

RELATIVE WORLD SLIPPAGE

everyone their own poet
no two close to the same
each poem arrives on infinite wings
some land like a skate fish hover
some like a front skid goose
some roar like the too short runway at O'hare
some quiet as a velvet love
oh why judge any moment
much less a word curation
catching its breath on a flat plane
before the tornado woosh
into a new frame
with a few new dimensions
faceting meaning and impact?

—Beth Jacobs



- (1) Portrait of **Tang Yin** (1470–1524), painter and litterateur during the Ming Dynasty
- (2) Portrait of **Wang Wei** (699–761), known as a model of humanistic education as expressed in poetry, music, and painting, Tang Dynasty
- (3) **Li Qingzhao** (1084–1155), poet and essayist
- (4) Depiction of **Cai Wenji** (c. 170–249), composer, poet, and writer
- (5) Depiction of **Su Shi** (1037–1101), poet, essayist, calligrapher, and painter
- (6) Depiction of **Bai Juyi** (772–846), musician, poet, and politician