

76. Ode to Snowberry (or Madrone)

The trouble is that evergreens are everdead.

Ramon Gomez de la Serna

& so depend on foliage (it's all in the accessorizing)
how a few red berries hang from the madrone
from Tofino to Santa Barbara (madroño) with
leaves can last four years. Red berries known to
hitch their barbs into northbound elk. Branches
known to contort and twist aim for a certain star
blossoms confused with constellations.

But snowberry
forms (waits) soon all's barren but the everdead,
soon salal, Oregon grape have a say but snowberry
in winter ornaments the view this side Tahoma
awaits a white-tail or grouse. This common
snowberry with an inflorescence (16 flowers). This
common snowberry with almost a glow at night
watches the windmade Lake Xacuabš waves as the
baby does.

You might say *everdead* Ramón but bust
open a snowberry for the delicate hexagonal
within. Few so bright can stand the contrast can
hide from predators can wait as patient as madroño
for fire to circulate the seed.

Oh snowberry
the favorite barren winter
drupe...
hang on.

5:03P - 12.5.12
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