

## MIKA LAFOND

### *îpon*

kayasaya masinpahiwin  
masinipayiw nôhkom  
namôya wîkac nikî-nâkiskawâw

tâpasinaham kîkway tapiskoc itwêwina  
otinikêhkina  
cîsapêkahikan sôhkêsimow  
kîskahamâkêw kinosêwa kanâcihêw mînisa kîsisam

nêsowitêhêw  
oskaninê-kisisowin  
sôhkêpayin osâkihitowin  
nikawiy okiskisowina

kâkikê kî itwêw  
kâpapiw katipiskâk kiwî mâton  
nistomitanaw askiya mayês nîtâwikiyân

aspastâkan kikiskâm  
kotawânapiskohk pâkwêsikana ê-apiyit  
pahkwênêsiw

apiw  
nanahêkinam okîskasâkay  
kaskitêwayiw mina wapiskâyiw  
âpo êtikwê askitakwayiw, nipâmâyataniyiw oskaskoswayiw  
âstêtaw otoskwana

wêstakaya tâkoc tâkopitam  
okwâkaniy  
itastaniyiwa wêscakasa  
tâpiskoc masinpayihcikan

kapê-nikî-nôhtê-nakiskawâw

itwêw  
nista mîna kîpawâtatitin

# Yvonne

clipped corners curve  
with age  
a square snapshot  
the grandmother I never met

she drew pictures for words  
on shopping lists  
danced to fiddle  
high step jig  
cut hair—cleaned fish—cooked berries

her heart was weak  
rheumatic fever  
her love was strong  
mother's memories

she always said  
giggles before dark end in tears  
thirty years before I was born

she wears an apron  
rips a piece of bannock  
from the round  
resting on the woodstove

she sits  
flattens her black and white skirt  
it could be blue—purple—green  
rests her elbows

her hair is tied on top  
always with a breeze  
lifting the wisps by her cheek  
like the photograph

I always wanted to meet her

she says  
I dreamed of you too