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Descent of the Giant Stairway into the Jamison Valley

by Jenny de Garis

Magnets of giddying valley
enticing me down
I stepped where birds circled high over trees

I entered the level of feathers

By thrust layers of rock where sky
had earlier drunk back its cloud,
down – not as direct as close falling water

but heavy with gravity’s tug
to the level of branches – where leaves, stone
polished by passing, shone

The slope kept on going –

I’d just seen paintings by Turner
– his Fall of an Avalanche, Goldau –
and now, where I walked through trees stretched for light

cylinders of cliff had found lodging

Seams of long-buried forest stitched
in the rock leaked
where the path had been cut

Like Job in the belly of Whale
– ferns being trees, dripping moss –
I was swallowed by green

reaching root level, treading radical earth

Jenny de Garis gardens, walks, writes, reads, runs creative workshops in the rural Southwest of WA where she now lives. She enjoys exploring there and elsewhere especially on foot and sometimes in words. This led in 2007 to the publication of Dance of Light, her book of photos and poems of Piney Lakes – a Perth reserve of the Beeliar Wetlands, and to her participation in eco-art projects, notably Avon Valley’s River Art.