

### The Exercise

A fish  
did not know  
what water was.  
On asking,  
the wisest fish  
answered:  
if you want to know  
what water is  
get out of the water.

*Translated by Susana Heringman  
with Donald Justice*

### To the Calligraphy of Chusa \*

A dragon with a writhing body and a beating tail, tearing the heaven with  
his scales;  
An angry tiger with flashing eyes, leaping up and down an immense crag;  
But now the dragon, being helpless, begs power of you;  
The tiger, deprived of his muscles, can no longer leap.

What innocent baby would gaze at your strokes without fear? What  
emperor's tyranny?  
What lunatic or what devil could mimic your breathtaking feat?  
What swallow's flight could assume your perfect grace more easily yielded

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\*"Chusa" is an alias of Kim Chong-hi (1786-1856), a distinguished scholar and calligrapher, admired in Korea as a completely original artist.