

The background is a mosaic-style painting of a forest scene. It features a path that winds through trees with foliage in shades of green, yellow, and orange, suggesting autumn. The style uses small, circular or square tiles to create the texture and color of the scene.

## **Superior Air**

by Diane Spray

**The air calls  
My lungs long  
Is it Spring?**

**Let's go girls  
Snow knee deep  
Yet the sun warms**

**Look out!  
Chase is on, like a ribbon  
Floating, weaving through the trees  
Two birds flash by  
How can they miss the trees at that speed?  
Where's my camera?  
Wait what colors?**

**Nothing can capture this  
Except my mind and heart  
It's beyond my imagination.**

How their flight silences the roar of the river  
Sunlight through the hemlock blinds my sight  
Where are those tracks I'm following?

Follow the smell, the cedars and hemlock  
My lungs wide open absorbing the mist  
Like dust dancing  
Water so fast, falls bursting  
Trees fallen, limbs directing  
Landscape changed, access changed

Just one step closer  
Slide down the embankment  
Up to my neck  
Edges so close do I dare?  
Step in river or on land?  
Chunks fall and float away

Where are the girls? Miles ahead, chest deep?  
Help me back up  
Surprises always waiting  
The air always calling –  
me back.