

**'Ritual'**

**Carolyn Waudby**

She bolts upright  
hair fanning in flaming halo  
sacrificial doll  
offered to ancient gods.

Crowds press up to the furnace  
sing ballads of farewell:  
*Adios, Mi Chaparita,*  
*Adios, Mariquita Linda.*

They have pulled  
the rings from her fingers.  
Once, clad themselves in gold  
to carry the light.