

**The Solace in not Writing a Solace Poem**  
**Tim Suermond**

That poem will have to wait.  
I'm in no mood for the singing birds  
poets find so charming.  
Now I want to sit down with grief,  
the two of us talking about everything.  
It seems almost sorry, thanking me  
for being the one who brought the drinks.

Tim Suermond is the author of five full-length collections of poems, the latest *JOSEPHINE BAKER SWIMMING POOL* from MadHat Press, 2019. He has published in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Georgia Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Stand Magazine*, *december magazine*, *On the Seawall*, *Poet Lore* and *Plume*, among many others. He lives in Cambridge (MA) with his wife, the poet Pui Ying Wong.