



## Dancing Girl by Heather Holliger

[Home](#)

[Spring-Summer 2012](#)

[Autumn-Winter 2011-12](#)

[Summer 2011](#)

[Winter/Spring 2011](#)

[Autumn/Winter 2011](#)

[Summer 2010](#)

[Spring 2010](#)

[Winter 2010](#)

[Autumn 2009](#)

[Summer 2009](#)

[Spring 2009](#)

[Autumn 2008](#)

[Summer 2008](#)

[Spring/Summer 2008](#)

[Winter/Spring 2008](#)

[Editor's Note](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[Contact](#)

Still wet from a bath  
from her mother's  
delicate scrub,  
a dancing girl  
emerges –  
bare foot, on tip-toe,  
waving a silken  
red scarf, twirling  
in her white  
nightie, her de-tangled  
curls, turning  
on her toes  
spinning  
white, gold, red  
sparkles  
light as  
laughter,  
a butterfly's  
flutter,  
its itch  
for flight –  
friction of a scarf  
a nightie  
against the air  
wings  
pulsing  
creating  
lift –

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**Heather Holliger** is a poet, activist, and teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. She currently teaches writing and women's studies at Ohlone College. Her poems have appeared in numerous literary journals, including *the Aureorean*, *Labletter*, and *Sugar Mule*, among others. She has served as editor of *So to Speak: A Feminist Journal of Language & Art* and is a former staff writer for *Ms.* magazine online.

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