Juxtapositions and Reflections
Part 1

Joyce Majiski

Language and all of its peculiarities can confound, enchant and confuse. I love the exactitudes of language and how we are all so particular about our words, accents and idioms. I love speaking another language and the way my face and the tone of my voice changes. At times, I feel like a character in a play where I roll my rs and speak...
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The juxtaposition of things familiar and not familiar interests me. In a new place I search out the things that are different and note these changes while I see things that I understand, know and recognize. In a strange landscape we all tend to move back and forth between these perspectives as a way to contextualize the unknown.
street and store signs and try to keep my inner navigational sense on alert. Unfortunately this doesn’t always work as I have spent uncountable hours wandering in circles—not always happily. In some cities where the streets form a maze, criss crossing in all directions, one plaza leading to another and another it is too easy to be distracted and lose all sense of direction. I always exult in a huge AHA!!! when I finally untangle the mess of streets and know exactly where I am.
The natural and urban worlds I inhabit are so diametrically opposed, I often feel disconnected during the transitions. It takes time to fit in.

How does it feel to always be a stranger in a strange land?
Where is home?
What will you find there?