Communication
By Madeline

They never told me
that talking to a computer
started with handwritten letters.

The sketches come first.
Lead upon fiber
slicing words, circling sets,
making maps…
my brain always
begins with pictures.

Then come the captions
as if I have built the chair first
before writing the manual.
`For`, `if`, `then`, `while`…
The language of computers, like any other
is something my tongue
(and fingers)
must learn.

And then it happens,
the transfer to the screen.
Keys clucking their side comments
as I transcribe myself
into the realm where,
hopefully,
these words will be heard.

Let's try it out.

Green
Green
Red-

Dang.

And the cycle repeats
From paper to screen to web
New drawings
Crossed lines
Better words

`Print`
`Print`
Searching for the sentences
to bridge the computer's mind
and mine.

Try again.

Green
Green
Green
Green
Green
Green
Green
Green
Green
Green

YES!

Surrounded by the scribbles of unread letters
and the sharps of unspoken lyrics
I sit back and smile,
my message
gone through
at last.