

Joyce Wycoff

Joyce Wycoff is the author of four personal productivity books focused on creativity and innovation. Two of these books (*Mindmapping* and *To Do, Doing, Done!*) have achieved best-selling classic status and have been published in several languages. She has also written numerous magazine articles, booklets and video scripts. Wycoff is the founder of the InnovationNetwork, an international professional membership association for change agents focused on creativity and innovation. In this role she developed an extensive network of friends and associates. She writes a weekly e-zine with approximately 20,000 readers and is a popular keynote speaker and workshop leader.

Scarlet Marigolds

State Highway 118
cuts through the farmlands
of California's Simi Valley,
past a field of blatantly orange flowers.
Sun-gilded, thigh-high blossoms lurch
across the flat acres
to the toes of the foothills
but never cozy up to the likes of
household daffodils or irises.

These are special flowers,
these scarlet marigolds.
Raised for seeds.
Bred for industrial duty.
Selected and shipped round the world,
these beauties are not for vases
on dining room tables.
No florist will bind
them in fancy arrangements
with baby's breath and daisies.

These are purposeful flowers,
these scarlet marigolds.
Sterling genetic planning
created a blossom so rich in pigment
one touch leaves fingers coated orange.
A few petals added to the sterilized diet
of a sterilized, groundless chicken
turns the pale, thin-yellow yolk
a palate-fooling natural gold.