

ALMOST ISLAND

Contributors: Monsoon 2010

Adil Jussawalla was born in Bombay in 1940. He was a student of Architecture in London between 1957 and 1958. He read English Language and Literature at Oxford and taught at a language school in London before returning to Bombay in 1970. His published works include two books of poems, *Land's End* (1962) and *Missing Person* (1976). Jussawalla is also the editor of the influential anthology, *New Writing in India*, Penguin, 1974.

Christian Bobin is the author of more than forty short works, including *The Very Lowly: A Meditation on Francis of Assisi*. He lives in Le Creusot, France.

Alison Anderson is the author of the novels *Darwin's Wink* and *Hidden Latitudes*. She received a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for her translations of four short works by Christian Bobin in 2004. She lives in a small village in French-speaking Switzerland.

George Szirtes was born in Budapest in 1948. His family were refugees from the 1956 Uprising and settled in England. His first book, *The Slant Door* won the Faber Prize in 1980. His fourteen books since have won various awards, including the T S Eliot Prize for *Reel* (2004). His *New and Collected Poems* appeared in 2008 along with a study of his work, *Reading George Szirtes*, by John Sears. His most recent book of poems *The Burning of the Books and Other Poems* (2009) was short-listed for the T S Eliot Prize. He has been translating from the Hungarian since his first return in 1984 and has published over a dozen books of translated prose, verse and drama, as well as editing various anthologies of Hungarian writing. He is married to the artist Clarissa Upchurch, with whom he has published *Budapest: Image, Poem, Film* (2006)

Miljenko Jergović was born in Sarajevo in 1966. A poet, prose fiction writer, and journalist, he has published more than twenty books (of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction), and his work has been translated extensively throughout the world. *Buick Riviera* was made into a feature film in 2008 by filmmaker Goran Rušinović, and the two were in turn awarded the Golden Arena prize for best screenplay. He lives in Zagreb, Croatia.

Russell Scott Valentino is a translator and scholar based in Iowa City, Iowa. He has published eight books and numerous essays and short translations of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from Italian, Croatian, and Russian. He is the publisher of [Autumn Hill Books](#) and Editor of [The Iowa Review](#). He teaches in the University of Iowa's [Translation Workshop](#).

Sharmistha Mohanty is the author of two novels, *Book One*, and *New Life*. An extract from Book One is at New Writing 15. A long excerpt from *New Life* can be found at [Inertia Magazine](#). Mohanty's work has appeared in journals and magazines in India, U.S.A., U.K., and France. She has held a fellowship at Germany's Akademie Schloss Solitude, as well as in France and the U.S.A. She is also a recipient of a Senior Fellowship in Literature from the Indian Ministry of Culture. Her translations of Tagore's fiction, *Ruined Nest and Other Stories* is due out soon. Mohanty attended the MFA programme in Fiction at the Iowa Writers Workshop. She is currently at work on a new novel, *Sub-continent*, and a book of prose texts, one of which can be found on the website of [George Szirtes](#). More articles can be found at [New Statesman](#) and [Open Space India](#). Mohanty's other serious interest is cinema. She has worked as a scriptwriter in the serious Indian cinema with Mani Kaul, Rajan Khosa, and Kabir Mohanty. She lives in Bombay.

Sun Ganlu was born in Shanghai. He is currently a member and director of the Shanghai writers' association, deputy director of the Shanghai Culture and Arts committee, chief strategist at the Shanghai Weekly. His works include the novel *Breathing, Asking Women to Solve Riddles*, and *Remembering the Lady of Qin*. He also has a collection of short stories and novellas, *A Visit to Dreamland*, collection of essays *Dancing on the Ceiling* and *Slower than Slow*, *Shanghai over the years*. His work has been translated into French, Russian, Japanese, English, Italian, and many other languages. He is a winner of the Shanghai literature award.

Vahni Capildeo (b. Trinidad, 1973; currently UK-based) works in both poetry and prose. Her most recent poetry collection, *Undraining Sea* ([Egg Box](#), 2009), explores both forms. A forthcoming book, *Dark and Unaccustomed Words*, is partly inspired by her time with the Etymology Group at the Oxford English Dictionary. Capildeo has held a Research Fellowship in the Arts at Girton College, Cambridge and a Writing Fellowship at the University of Leeds. While her roles include work as a Contributing Advisor for Black Box Manifold (University of

Sheffield) and Contributing Editor for the [Caribbean Review of Books](#) Capildeo is also proud to have volunteered for Oxfam Head Office and Oxford Rape Crisis. She has just been appointed to a part-time Lectureship in Creative Writing at the University of Kingston (Greater London).