

ALMOST ISLAND

Contributors: Winter 2014

Anna Deeny Morales (Washington, DC, 1973) has translated *Purgatory* (University of California Press, 2009) and *Dreams for Kurosawa* (arrow as aarow press, 2012), both by Raúl Zurita. She is editing and translating a volume of selected poetry by Zurita called *Sky Below*, forthcoming from Northwestern University Press. Translations of poetry by Alejandra Pizarnik, Gabriela Mistral and Idea Vilariño were published in *Pinholes in the Night*, an anthology of Latin American Poetry, selected by Zurita and edited by Forrest Gander (Copper Canyon Press). Deeny has also published translations of poetry by Nicanor Parra, Marosa di Giorgio, Amanda Berenguer, Malú Urriola, among others, in anthologies and journals such as *The Paris Review*, *Mandorla*, *BOMB*, and *The Harvard Review Online*. Her translation of *Floating Lanterns* by Mercedes Roffé is forthcoming in 2015 from Shearsman Press. Deeny has a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and teaches in Modern Languages and Literatures at Catholic University. Currently she is writing a book about the poetic structures of solitude and history in Latin America.

Arvind Krishna Mehrotra's *Collected Poems 1969-2014* was published in Penguin Modern Classics this year. He lives in Dehra Dun, India.

Eugenio De Signoribus was born and lives in the Adriatic coastal town of Cupra Marittima, Italy. Five volumes of his poetry were collected together in *Poesie (1976-2007)* (Garzanti, 2008) for which he won the Viareggio Prize in 2008. Recent publications include *Nessun luogo è elementare* (Alberto Tallone Editore, 2010), *Trinità dell'esodo* (Garzanti, 2011) (from which the translations published here are taken) and *Veglie genovesi* (Canneto Editore, 2013). Other translations of his poetry have appeared in *The FSG Book of Twentieth Century Italian Poetry* (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2012).

An award-winning poet and playwright, educator and editor, **Kobus Moolman** teaches creative writing in the Department of English at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is regarded as one of South Africa's leading lyric poets. He has published seven collections of poetry: *Time like Stone* (winner of the 2001 Ingrid Jonker Prize), *Feet of the Sky*, *Separating the Seas*, (winner of the 2010 South African Literary Award for Poetry), *Anatomy* (winner of

the 2009 DALRO Prize), *Light and After*, *Left Over*, and his most recent, *A Book of Rooms*. He has also published two collections of his award-winning plays, *Blind Voices* (2007) and *Full Circle* (2007). He was the editor of the literary journal, *Fidelities*, from 1995 until 2007. In 2010 he edited and published, *Tilling the Hard Soil: Poetry, Prose and Art by South African Writers with Disabilities*. In 2013, he was the Mellon Writer in Residence, courtesy of Rhodes University in Grahamstown. At the end of 2013 he was awarded the Sol Plaatje European Union poetry award.

Mercedes Roffé is one of Argentina's leading poets. Widely published in Latin America and Spain, some of her books have appeared in translation in Italy, Quebec, Romania, and England. Her poetry collection, *La ópera fantasma* (Madrid/México, Vaso Roto, 2012) was chosen one of the best books of 2012 by two major Mexican newspapers. Her book *Las linternas flotantes* (2009) translated as *Floating Lanterns* by Anna Deeny will be published in 2015 by Shearsman Books. Her most recent poetry collection is entitled *Carcaj: Vishumbres* (Madrid/México, Vaso Roto, 2014). She is the founding editor of Ediciones Pen Press (www.edicionespenpress.com), a New York-based independent press dedicated to the publication of contemporary Spanish-language poets as well as poets of other languages in Spanish translation. She is the co-editor of Colección Letra T, a new series launched by Editorial Amargord of Madrid, devoted to the publication of poetry and literary essays in Spanish translation. Roffé holds a diploma in Modern Languages from the University of Buenos Aires, and a Ph.D. from New York University. She lives in NYC and is frequently invited to read from her work at international poetry festivals and academic settings around the world. Mercedes Roffé was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (2001) and a Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship (2012).

Raúl Zurita Canessa (Santiago de Chile, 1950) is one of Latin America's foremost and celebrated poets. He studied Civil Engineering at the Universidad Santa María de Valparaíso. Along with other artists, in 1979 he founded CADA, Colectivo de Acciones de Arte, an art action group dedicated to the creation of public and political art that would resist the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. His literary include *Purgatorio* (1979), *Anteparaíso* (1982), *El paraíso está vacío* (1984), *Canto a su amor desaparecido* (1985), *Canto de los ríos que se aman* (1993), *La vida nueva* (1994), *Poemas militantes* (2000), *El día más blanco* (2000), *INRI* (2003), *Mi*

mejilla es el cielo estrellado (2004), *Los poemas muertos* (2006), *Los países muertos* (2006), *Las ciudades de agua* (2007), *Poemas de amor* (2007), *Zurita/ In Memoriam* (2007) and *Zurita* (2011). In 1982 he directed the sky writing of the poem “The New Life” over Queens, New York, and in 1992 he bulldozed “ni pena ni miedo” (“no shame no fear”) into the Desert of Atacama. Zurita has been awarded the Premio Pablo Neruda, the Premio Nacional de Literatura de Chile, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. From 1990-1995, he served as the Chilean cultural attaché to Italy. His works have been translated into English, German, Russian, Italian, Swiss, Chinese, Bengali, Turkish and Hindi. He now lives in Santiago and teaches literature at the Universidad Diego Portales.

Renee Gladman is the author of eight works of prose and poetry, most recently the first three novels of the *Ravicka* series, published by Dorothy Project. A short novel, *Morelia*, and a book of essays, *Calamities*, are forthcoming in 2015. Her current project explores the intersections of narrative and architecture through drawing and writing about drawing. She lives in northeastern United States with the poet-ceramicist, Danielle Vogel.

Richard Dixon lives and works in Italy. His translations include *The Prague Cemetery* and *Inventing the Enemy* by Umberto Eco (Houghton Mifflin, Harvill Secker, 2011 and 2012); he was one of the translators of Giacomo Leopardi’s *Zibaldone* (Farrar Straus Giroux, Penguin Books, 2013); his translation of *Ardor* by Roberto Calasso, a ‘book-length essay’ about ritual and sacrifice in Vedic India, was published by Farrar Straus and Giroux and Penguin Books in November 2014.

Vinod Kumar Shukla was born on 1 January 1937 in Rajnandgaon, Madhya Pradesh, and lives in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. His work includes three novels - *Naukar Ki Kameez* (1979), which was made into a movie by Mani Kaul), *Khilega To Dekhenge* and *Deewar Mein Ek Khirkee Rahati Thi* - the short story collection *Per Par Kamra* (1988) and the collections of poetry *Lagbhag Jai Hind* (1971), *Vah Aadmi Chala Gaya Naya Garam Coat Pehankar Vichar Ki Tarah* (1981), *Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega* (1992) and *Atirikt Nahin* (2002). Awards include the the Dayavati Mody Kavi Shekhar Samman, the Shikhar Samman, the Muktibodh Fellowship and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999 for *Deewar Mein Ek Khirkee Rahati Thi*.

Xi Chuan (pen name of Liu Jun) is a Chinese poet, essayist, and translator. Born in 1963 in Jiangsu province, he graduated from Beijing University in 1985. He is currently professor of Chinese literature at Beijing's Central Academy of Fine Arts. Xi Chuan has published six collections of poems, including *Personal Preferences* (2008) and *A Dream's Worth* (2013), two books of essays, two books of criticism, and numerous translations. His book of poems in English translation, *Notes on the Mosquito* (tr. Lucas Klein), was published by New Directions in 2012 and was awarded ALTA's 2013 Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize and was shortlisted for American 2013 Best Translated Book Award.