

ALMOST ISLAND

Contributors: Winter 2018

Aditya Bahl is the author of three chapbooks of poetry, including *Name Amen* published by Tinglaset (Malmo). Excerpts from this engagement with Muktibodh have appeared in *Social Text Review* and *Datableed*. He is currently enrolled in the PhD program at Johns Hopkins University.

Slovenian writer **Aleš Šteger** has published seven books of poetry, three novels, and two books of essays. A Chevalier des Artes et Lettres in France and a member of the Berlin Academy of Arts, he received the 1998 Veronika Prize for the best Slovenian poetry book, the 1999 Petrarch Prize for young European authors, the 2007 Rožanc Award for the best Slovenian book of essays, and the 2016 International Bienek Prize. His work has been translated into over 15 languages, including Chinese, German, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, and Spanish. He has published four books in English: *The Book of Things* appeared from BOA Editions in 2010 as a Lannan Foundation selection and won the 2011 Best Translated Book Award; *Berlin*, a collection of lyric essays, appeared from Counterpath Press in 2015; *Essential Baggage*, a book of prose poems, appeared from Equipage in England in 2016; and the novel *Absolution*, which appeared in England in 2017. He also has worked in the field of visual arts (most recently with a large scale installation at the International Kochi-Muziris Biennale in India), completed several collaborations with musicians (Godalika, Uroš Rojko, Peter N. Gruber), and collaborated with Peter Zach on the film *Beyond Boundaries*.

Born in Mumbai in 1971, **Anand Thakore** grew up in India and in the United Kingdom. He has spent most of his life in Mumbai. His published collections of poetry include *Waking In December* (2001), *Elephant Bathing* (2012), *Mughal Sequence* (2012), *Selected Poems* (2017) and *Seven Deaths and Four Scrolls* (2017). A Hindustani classical vocalist by training, he has devoted much of his life to the study, performance, composition and teaching of Hindustani vocal music. He received musical instruction for many years from Ustad Aslam Khan, Pandit Baban Haldankar and Pandit Satyasheel Deshpande. He is the founder of Harbour Line, a publishing collective, and of Kshitij, an interactive forum for musicians. He holds an MA in English Literature and is the recipient of grants from The

Ministry of Human Resource Development and The Charles Wallace India Trust. He lives in Mumbai and divides his time between writing, performances, and teaching music. His fourth collection of verse, entitled *Seven Deaths and Four Scrolls*, was recently shortlisted for The Jayadeva National Poetry Award.

Anjum Hasan is the author of the novels *The Cosmopolitans*, *Neti, Neti* and *Lunatic in my Head*, and the short story collections *A Day in the Life* and *Difficult Pleasures*. She has also published a book of poems called *Street on the Hill*. Her books have been nominated for various awards including the Man Asian Literary Prize, the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature, the Hindu Best Fiction Award and the Crossword Fiction Award. She has been Charles Wallace Writer-in-Residence at the University of Canterbury and visiting professor of creative writing at Ashoka University. Her short stories, essays and poems are widely published including in *Granta*, *Baffler*, *Five Dials*, *Wasafiri*, *Drawbridge*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Asia Literary Review*, *Caravan* and anthologies such as *A Clutch of Indian Masterpieces: Extraordinary Short Stories from the 19th Century to the Present* and *The Bloodaxe Book of Contemporary Indian Poets*. Anjum is books editor at *The Caravan*. She lives in Bangalore.

Brian Henry is the author of ten books of poetry, most recently *Static & Snow* (Black Ocean, 2015). He co-edited the international magazine *Verse* from 1995 to 2017 and established the Tomaž Šalamun Prize in 2015. His translation of Aleš Šteger's *The Book of Things* appeared from BOA Editions in 2010 and won the Best Translated Book Award. He also has translated Tomaž Šalamun's *Woods and Chalices* (Harcourt, 2008) and Aleš Debeljak's *Smugglers* (BOA, 2015). His poetry and translations have received numerous honors, including an NEA fellowship, a Howard Foundation grant, the Alice Fay di Castagnola Award, the Carole Weinstein Poetry Prize, the Cecil B. Hemley Memorial Award, the George Bogin Memorial Award, and a Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences grant.

Jeffrey Yang is the author of the poetry collections *Vanishing-Line* and *An Aquarium*. He is the translator of Ahmatjan Osman's *Uyghurland, the Farthest Exile* (with the author), Liu Xiaobo's *June Fourth Elegies*, Su Shi's *East Slope*, and Bei Dao's autobiography *City Gate, Open Up*. He is the editor of the poetry anthologies *Birds, Beasts, and Seas: Nature Poems from New Directions* and *Time of Grief: Mourning Poems*, as well as the collection *The Sea*

Is a Continual Miracle: Sea Poems and Other Writings by Walt Whitman. Yang works as an editor at New Directions Publishing and New York Review Books. Jeffrey Yang's new book of poems is *Hey, Marfa*.

Nathaniel Mackey is the author of six books of poetry, the most recent of which is *Blue Fasa* (New Directions, 2015); an ongoing prose work, *From a Broken Bottle Traces of Perfume Still Emanate*, whose fifth and most recent volume is *Late Arcade* (New Directions, 2017); and two books of criticism, the most recent of which is *Paracritical Hinge: Essays, Talks, Notes, Interviews* (University of Iowa Press, 2018). He is the editor of the literary magazine *Hambone*, coeditor, with Art Lange, of the anthology *Moment's Notice: Jazz in Poetry and Prose* (Coffee House Press, 1993), and coeditor, with Michael Bough, Kent Johnson and others, of the anthology *Resist Much / Obey Little: Inaugural Poems to the Resistance* (Dispatches Editions/Spuyten Duyvil, 2017).

Nisha Ramayya's poetry pamphlets *Notes on Sanskrit* (2015) and *Correspondences* (2016) are published by Oystercatcher Press. With Sandeep Parmar and Bhanu Kapil, she co-authored *Threads* (2018), a creative-critical pamphlet published by clinic. She is a member of the Race & Poetry & Poetics in the UK research group and teaches Creative Writing at Queen Mary University of London.

Todd Swift, Montreal-born but now also British, is the editor or co-editor of numerous global anthologies, including Carcanet's *Modern Canadian Poets*. He is author of ten full collections of poetry, including *Seaway: New & Selected Poems*, from Salmon, Ireland. His poems have appeared in many leading journals in America, Australia, Britain, Canada and Ireland, such as *Poetry (Chicago)*, *Poetry Review*, *Poetry London*, *PRISM International*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Jacket*, and *New American Writing*. He was Oxfam GB's poet-in-residence, based in Marylebone, 2004-2012. He was Writer-in-Residence, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, England, 2017-18. He founded Eyewear Publishing in 2012 and is its chief patron. He has a PhD from the University of East Anglia (UEA); and is married to an Irish barrister. He has many nieces and nephews; and loves cats.