

Announcements

women: poetry: migration

Poems: New & Selected

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women: poetry: migration

From Judith Roitman (2018):

This anthology presents poems of 50 women writing, as Jane Joritz-Nakagawa says in her introduction, “innovative/experimental/avant-garde/adventurous” poetry, who live lives displaced from their origin. That is the premise. By collecting this work by that set of criteria and no other, Joritz-Nakagawa, an American living in Japan, has created a wide-ranging and generous survey of contemporary poetics, granting each poet after her poems a space for a short essay about her process or poetics or whatever seems germane. Rather than the criteria for inclusion limiting the result, it liberates it to include many more forms/techniques/attitudes/poetics than most anthologies.

Many of these poets are also displaced from the language[s] of their childhood, writing in perhaps that first (or more) language(s) or perhaps in the language of the place in which they find themselves or perhaps others although mostly in English (but not all). Many of the essays look at this double-or-more-ness of language.

women: poetry: migration – an anthology edited by Jane Joritz-Nakagawa – comprises poetry by women living outside their homeland. Throughout this collection the prefix “trans” goes far. Transportation, transmigration, transcendence, translation and, of course, transformation are key for these poetic travelers who are experiencing what it is like to live and think in a country other than one's birthplace. They have crossed not only physical boundaries, but that of voice. I was drawn to the unique ways in which poems mentioned language – thereby giving us two experiences in one. We are engaged in the meaning of each written piece while also being made aware of the complexities of language-making.

As a reader, I found myself intrigued by a keen attention to words, their aural qualities. This is second nature for those speaking/writing in their native tongue. These are matters we rarely think of in daily conversation. When entering a foreign place though, one becomes conscious of how sounds form words as well as syntax, the sequencing of words to form a poem.

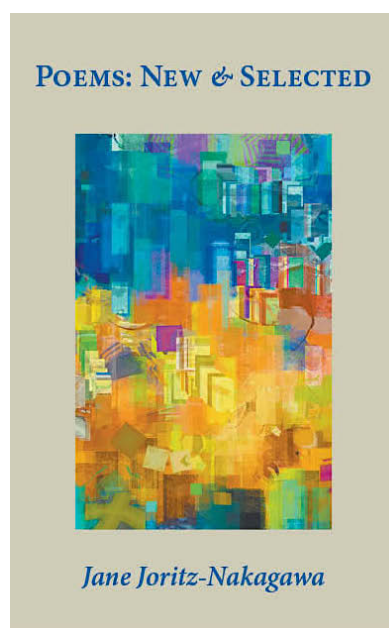
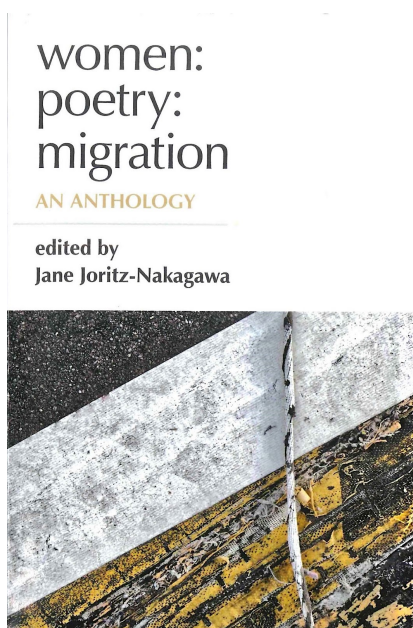
Poems: New & Selected

Poems: New & Selected includes excerpts from Jane Joritz-Nakagawa’s moving new poem, “Plan B Audio,” together with generous selections from her fourteen previous ground-breaking publications – ranging from *SkinMuseum* (2006) to *Distant Landscapes* (2017) – and an insightful foreword by poet and translator Eric Selland (2018), who writes:

“Joritz-Nakagawa’s poetics is unique in the generation which came of age during the period when the LANGUAGE movement was at its peak. Hers is a radically open form – a framework through which the data of life, poetic themes and materials, freely migrate. She does not reject the personal, but she does not privilege it either. It is simply part of the data. And yet one senses a personal warmth, the presence of an intelligent observer in Jane’s work. What we experience as readers is not ‘the death of the author’ – the poetic subject has simply become more complex. For Jane, as with Blanchot, the poem never ends. It is an infinitely open system, always searching for that which is unexplainable and unattainable: the poem is constantly in search of itself.... The selection here provides an excellent introduction to a poetry whose depth increases with each reading, and which draws us further in, and along, leaving us wanting more.”

And according to Ron Silliman,

“Jane Joritz-Nakagawa’s poetry has moved to a place in which the territory between poem and book have blurred, even as the writing and Joritz-Nakagawa’s perceptions have sharpened.... At core, Joritz-Nakagawa is more a descriptive poet, but without the austerity that so often accompanies that aesthetic, than a metaphoric one. My favorite moments – there are many – come when she builds a rapid-fire linkage of seeming opposites into larger structures that feel deeply inevitable, like life itself.”



Jane Joritz-Nakagawa, *Poems: New & Selected*

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Roitman, J. (2018). Retrieved on November 30 from <http://galatearesurrects2018.blogspot.com/2018/04/women-poetry-migration-edited-by-jane.html>

Selland, E. (2018). Retrieved on November 30 from <http://poeticslist.chicagoschoolofpoetics.com/2018/09/jane-joritz-nakagawa-poems-new-and-selected-out-now/>