

# CONTENTS

*Introduction* / xi

## ARS POETICA

- “Break My Heart,” Joy Harjo / 5  
“Delivery,” Martha Rhodes / 7  
“The Uses of What Is Hollow,” Eleanor Wilner / 8  
“Ars Poetica,” Mai Der Vang / 9  
“The Lights Burn Blue,” Alan Michael Parker / 10  
“Mother (of Poetry),” Allison Seay / 11  
“The Invention of the F-hole,” Kimberly Johnson / 12  
“Ars Poetica,” Cornelius Eady / 14

## LITANIES, CATALOGS, & LISTS

- “For Our People,” Angela Jackson / 17  
“Political Poem,” Joy Ladin / 21  
“From the Word *Go*,” Anna Leahy / 23  
“descendent,” Quraysh Ali Lansana / 24  
“Waiting for Greece’s Fate on Serifos,” Alike Barnstone / 25  
“The Afterlife of American Poets,” Billy Collins / 27  
“Litany,” Christina Pugh / 28  
“Select an Answer,” Oliver de la Paz / 29  
“Titles from Harold’s Shelf, A Portrait,” Kimiko Hahn / 30  
“Questions for Google,” Elizabeth Spires / 31  
“Things I Find in Abuela’s Bathroom Closet,” Rigoberto González / 32

## EPISTLES & POSTCARDS

- “Our Fault Is We Love Too Much,” Ira Sukrungruang / 37  
“With Love from Ainezalandia,” Elizabeth Macklin / 38  
“Dear Art,” Cynthia Atkins / 39  
From *In the Field Between Us*, Molly McCully Brown and  
Susannah Nevison / 40  
“Postcards to Etheridge Knight,” Todd Fuller / 44  
“Letter to Hillary on the Radical Hospitality of the Body,”  
Erika Meitner / 47

- “After the Dragonflies,” Chris Green / 49  
“Postcard: Morning Window, Venice,” Donna Masini / 50

### POEMS IN FORM

- “The Crux,” Rosanna Warren / 53  
“How To:,” Jordi Alonso / 54  
“Reckoning,” Jeanetta Calhoun Mish / 55  
“Haiku,” Molly Peacock / 56  
“The UFO Incident,” Tony Trigilio / 57  
“Villanelle of Margaritas,” Allison Joseph / 59  
“Ballad of the Bronx Zoo’s Beloved,” Judith Baumel / 60  
“The Summer Before the Student Murders,” Randall Mann / 61  
“Departures,” Emma Bolden / 62  
“Vivid Isolation: A Ghazal,” Tina Chang / 63  
“World Gone Wrong,” William Wadsworth / 64  
From “Frolic and Detour,” Paul Muldoon / 66

### PERSONA POEMS

- “Buckle and Wash,” John A. Nieves / 71  
“From My Lord’s Estate, I Pass High Mountains, Winding Streams,  
Rocky Torrents, Thick Forests, and Tall Bamboo,”  
Sebastian Bitticks / 72  
“Sole Heiress,” Joan Houlihan / 73  
“Laloo, the Handsome, Healthy, Happy Hindoo,” Ravi Shankar / 74  
“Pity Eyed,” Marilyn Nelson / 76  
“This River,” Elizabeth Macklin / 77  
“Sparrow,” January Gill O’Neil / 80  
“The Language of the Bomb,” Kimberly Grey / 82  
“Rescue Annie,” Laura Kasischke / 83  
“One Hundred Umbrellas,” David Yezzi / 84

### MYTH POEMS

- “The Love Song of the Kraken,” Martín Espada / 93  
“Assos,” Christopher Bakken / 94  
“Sleeping Woman,” Duane Niatum / 95  
“Composition,” John A. Nieves / 96  
“Transit of Venus,” Stefanie Wortman / 97  
“Made / Maeve 1,” Leah Umansky / 98  
“The Damned,” Kevin Prufer / 100

- “Shade,” Richard Tillinghast / 103  
“At the Expulsion,” Edward Hirsch / 105  
“Eve Speaks,” Grace Schulman / 106

### E K P H R A S I S

- “Vanitas,” Mary Jo Salter / 109  
“Laundry,” Kwame Dawes / 110  
“Terra Nova: Juno Gemes,” Forrest Gander / 111  
“Photograph of Two Young Couples with One Person Missing,”  
Michael Collier / 112  
“Ascension,” Grace Schulman / 114  
“Titian’s *Marsyas*,” Lloyd Schwartz / 115  
“*The Flaying of Marsyas*,” David Yezzi / 116  
“Notes on a Diebenkorn,” Tess Taylor / 117  
“Shirt Noise,” Christina Pugh / 118  
“Allowing That,” Karl Kirchwey / 119  
“Hic Adelfia Clarissima Femina,” Judith Baumel / 120

### A U B A D E S & N O C T U R N E S

- “Aubade with Wolf Spider,” Aimee Nezhukmatathil / 123  
“At Dawn,” David Baker / 124  
“Aubade,” Elizabeth Scanlon / 125  
“Canebreak Love and Water,” Maurice Manning / 126  
“Music for Attack Helicopter,” Andrew Zawacki / 127  
“Nocturne for the Bereft,” Mai Der Vang / 128  
“The School of Night,” Edward Hirsch / 130  
“Expectation Nocturne,” Lisa Russ Spaar / 132  
“With Weather,” Stanley Plumly / 133  
“Rock Star,” Calvin Forbes / 134

### E C L O G U E S

- “Eclogue,” Dan Beachy-Quick / 137  
“Forage,” Sophie Cabot Black / 139  
“3 Skies,” Joanna Klink / 142  
“River Channeling in the Ear,” Carey Salerno / 143  
“Eclogue in Orange & White,” Elena Karina Byrne / 144  
“Lines at Tongdosa Temple,” Christopher Merrill / 146  
“Earthly Love,” Nathaniel Perry / 148  
“Yellow Time,” Maurice Manning / 149

## APHORISMS

- “Intelligent Design,” Jeff Martin / 153  
“Aphorisms,” Jake Young / 154  
“The Handbook of Risk,” Sophie Cabot Black / 155  
“Island Music,” David Baker / 158  
“After the End,” Emma Bolden / 159  
“Last Poem” and “Drinking Together,” Chris Green / 160–161  
“Pax Americana,” Karl Kirchwey / 162

## PROSE POEMS

- “One could say the train is resting,” Mary Jo Bang / 165  
“The Salvation of America,” Michael Collier / 166  
“Like a Polaroid / Faded,” Erika T. Wurth / 167  
“My body does not belong to me,” Gary Young / 168  
“Jefferson, Midnight,” Sandra Beasley / 169  
“Smoke When You Can’t See What’s on Fire,”  
Cynthia Marie Hoffman / 170  
“Stop Me If I’ve Told You This,” Kimiko Hahn / 171  
“Pathetic Fallacy,” Laura Kasischke / 172

## MIRROR POEMS

- “echolalia one,” Quraysh Ali Lansana / 175  
“What Happens When We Die,” Oliver Baez Bendorf / 176  
“An Action,” Kimberly Grey / 177  
“Thread a Pin Through Every Door, Drop the Line,”  
Suzannah Spaar / 178  
“Come, Slumberless,” Traci Brimhall / 182  
“Bloom,” January Gill O’Neil / 183  
“The Birch Swamp,” Helen Spica / 184  
“Seventy,” Marilyn Nelson / 185  
“Studio with Blackened Windows,” Alexandra Teague / 186  
“The Last Gardener of Aleppo,” Valerie Wallace / 187

## CONCRETE POEMS

- “Before Our Eyes,” Eleanor Wilner / 190  
“Hong Kong Crane,” Phillip Cozzi / 191  
“Obit,” Victoria Chang / 192  
“Apollinaire’s Ex-Girlfriends in the Snow,” Chris Green / 193

- “Skyscraper,” Robin Reagler / 194  
“A Brief History of Writing,” Ellen Rachlin and Georgiy Zhikharev / 195  
“A Is for Arbor,” Ravi Shankar / 196

**COLLAGE POEMS**

- “Checkpoint,” David Baker / 199  
“Things I Am Beginning to Forget,” Kimiko Hahn / 200  
“Wolf Cento,” Simone Muench / 201  
“The Cloistered Life of Nuns,” Major Jackson / 202  
“Lesson III: The Divisions, Illustrated,” Elizabeth Bradfield / 203  
“We Listen We Pray,” Martha Collins / 205  
“Found Poem: The Couple Who Lived at the Mall,” Elizabeth Spires / 207  
“Hog Kaput,” Kevin Prufer / 209

*Statements about the Poems by the Poets* / 213

*Biographical Notes on the Authors* / 265

*Index* / 275

*Acknowledgments* / 281