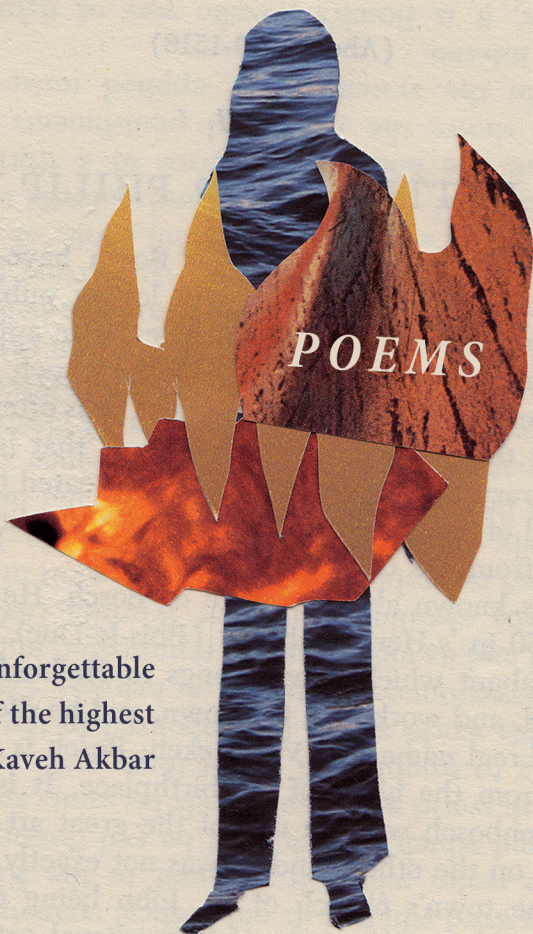


SPAWN



"*Spawn* is unforgettable
poetry of the highest
order."—Kaveh Akbar

MARIE-ANDRÉE GILL

Translated by Kristen Renee Miller

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FIRST ENGLISH EDITION

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*our dead do not take flight
except within ourselves
like children we bear
who clear a path to the interior*

Paul-Marie Lapointe
Tr. Kristen Renee Miller

We the unlikely
the aftermath
the remains of heart muscle
and black earth

We the territory
in a word

We have learned to avert our gaze, grow
beautiful as airplane graveyards

to grin at winning bingo cards

Spawn
straight from the scar
spawn

THE RAMPART

At the lake, the fish we're looking
for is the ouananiche. In Innu:
she who is found everywhere
or little lost one.

if I don't touch the sidewalk lines
if I keep on running
till I reach the third street light
everything will be fine

it isn't real it's in my head it's nothing
my strong nails
will cling to this disorder

the lake eats away a little more cement with bleeding
gums

and I want this whole thing over with
like that first french on the rampart

(we are everywhere lost)

some benches
some pruned cedars
and there, looming
four cement teepees

engraved:
beaver
snowshoes
canoe, bear
drab cement
drab procession
the story drawn, lifeless

The rampart

suspended in time
prams, drunk boys

day and night the dogs

day and night the dandelions push
through cracks in the cement

and before us, the lake
a luck
the lake.

its flashing waves
revive humanity
one drop at a time

on the main street
we draw game migrations
and curves of the stock exchange in chalk

we cherish the thrill of plucking daisies
and count the petals silently
to be sure that someday
we'll be loved

We have plans for you, they say.
And we laugh. As narcotic ghosts cling
to the storms of our bodies
we laugh.

PHOTO: AMBER ESTES THIENEMAN



Kristen Renee Miller's poems and translations appear in *POETRY*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Guernica*, *The Offing*, and *Best New Poets 2018*. A recipient of fellowships from The Kentucky Arts Council, Vermont Studio Center, Blackacre Conservancy, and the Kentucky Foundation for Women, she lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where she is the Managing Editor at Sarabande Books.

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