

Contents

Editors' Preface xv

Thank You xviii

Introduction xix

REETIKA VAZIRANI

It's a Young Country. 3

From the Postcard at Vertigo Bookstore in D.C. 4

It's Me, I'm Not Home 5

Aerogram Punjab 5

VANDANA KHANNA

Blackwater Fever 7

Hair 8

Dot Head 9

Echo 10

MOHAMMAD FAISAL HADI

My Uncle, Failing to Slaughter the Goat of His 12th Eid 12

Fatima 13

Public Benefits 14

MAYA KHOSLA

Oppenheimer quotes *The Bhagavad Gita* 16

Return to Grand Canyon 18

Sequoia Sempervirens 19

Under Wolf-Paw 20

TANUJA MEHROTRA

Manthara 22

Nainital 24

Song for New Orleans 25

VIJAY SESHADRI

- The Disappearances 30
Elegy 32
The Dream I Didn't Have 33
Memoir 33

BHANU KAPIL

- from *Humanimal [a project for future children]* 35

VIKAS MENON

- Radha 38
Drown 40
Urdu Funk: The Gentle Art of Subtitles 41

SUMMI KAIPA

- from *A Personal Cinema* 42
from *The Epics* 43

MINAL HAJRATWALA

- Angerfish 46
Miss Indo-America dreams 51
Generica/America 52

CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI

- Yuba City School 54
The Geography Lesson 56
Two Women Outside a Circus, Pushkar 58
Indian Movie, New Jersey 60

SEJAL SHAH

- Everybody's Greatest Hits 62
Accordion 63
Independence, Iowa 64

NEELANJANA BANERJEE

- Cowgirl Series I 66
Priapos 67

AMARNATH RAVVA

- I Am Burning a Pig in My Room, Apollinaire 69
 Bear Scat Flat 71
 the spectacle of a few trees in spring, off the 5. 74

MYTILI JAGANNATHAN

- nationalism redactor 77
 Dream House 79

SRIKANTH REDDY

- Jungle Book 80
 Scarecrow Eclogue 81
 Fundamentals of Esperanto 82
 Corruption 87

PRAGEETA SHARMA

- Paper 88
 Paper II 89
 I Cannot Forget You 89
 In Open Water, In Mathematical Star 90

SASHA KAMINI PARMASAD

- Burning 91
 Sugarcane Farmer 92
 The Old Man 94

VIVEK JAIN

- Poem for a Would Be Revolutionary, My Father 96
 Anand's Story 97
 December, 1984 97

RO GUNETILLEKE

- Lost Column 99
 Spirited Away 100

AMITAVA KUMAR

- Mistaken Identity 102
 Against Nostalgia 106

SACHIN B. PATEL

- In the Business of Erasing History 111
The Blacktop Gospels 112

BUSHRA REHMAN

- Ami's Cassettes 117
At the Museum of Natural History 118
The Difference 119

SHAILJA PATEL

- Shilling Love 120
Love Poem for London 125

SUDEEP SEN

- Offering 129
Jacket on a Chair 131

AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL

- The Mascot of Beaver Creek High Breaks Her Silence 133
Fishbone 134
Last Aerogramme to You, With Lizard 135
Mr. Mustard's Dance Club: Ladies' Night 136

RAVI CHANDRA

- Cleanup on Aisle #3 137
The Old Man Speaks 139

RALPH NAZARETH

- A Question for Vaclav Havel 140
Red Eye 141
Horse Play 142

MEENA ALEXANDER

- River and Bridge 143
September Sunlight 144
Color of Home 144
Slow Dancing 146

FAISAL MOHYUDDIN

Ayodhya 148

Blood Harmonies 154

Poem Inspired by a Note Found Scrawled onto the Inside Cover of
One Day at a Time in Al-Anon Sitting on a Bookshelf at Café
 Ambrosia, Evanston, Illinois 155

DILRUBA AHMED

The 18th Century Weavers of Muslin Whose Thumbs Were
 Chopped 157

Learning 159

Invitation 161

PRAMILA VENKATESWARAN

Draupadi's Dharma 164

Exile 165

BHARGAVI C. MANDAVA

Of Starry Silence 167

Moonsweets 168

REENA NARAYAN

My Daughter 170

Tobacco Wrapped in *The Fiji Times* 172

HOMRAJ ACHARYA

The Silk-Cotton Tree 176

The Kerosene Stove 178

R. PARTHASARATHY

from *Exile* 181

The Concise Kamasutra 185

Remembered Village 186

PURVI SHAH

- Made in India, Immigrant Song #3 187
- Unhoming 188
- Nature's Acre, POSTED 189

KAZIM ALI

- The River's Address 191
- Thicket 192
- Event 192

MONICA FERRELL

- Confessions of Beatrice D'Este 194
- The Coin of Your Country 195
- In the Binary Alleys of the Lion's Virus 196
- Love, the Kunstammer Version 197

RAVI SHANKAR

- The Flock's Reply to the Passionate Shepherd 198
- Before Sunrise, San Francisco 199
- Return to Mumbai 200

VINAY DHARWADKER

- A Draft of Excavations 202
- Thirty Years Ago, in a Suburb of Bombay 204

ARYANIL MUKHERJEE

- after promise 205
- treeforms :: the touch of language 206
- memory writings :: picnic 207

INDRAN AMIRTHANAYAGAM

- Runner 209
- Girl Dressed 210
- The City, with Elephants 212

SWATI RANA

- Stopping for the Northern Lights 214
 To Reveal 215

SUBHASHINI KALIGOTLA

- Lepidoptera 217
 Letter to New York 218
 My Heart Belongs to Daddy 219

MONA ALI

- Noor 220
 The Wolf's Cry 221

AGHA SHAHID ALI

- A Pastoral 225
 Ghazal 227
 Footnote to History 228
 At the Museum 230

PIREENI SUNDARALINGAM

- Lot's Wives 231
 Vermont, 1885 232
 Language Like Birds 233

JEET THAYIL

- September 10, 2001 234
 from *Premonition* 235
 Letter from a Mughal Emperor, 2006 236
 Flight 238

Acknowledgments 241

Author Index 249

Title Index 251