



2012

Selected Poems

Sery Bounphasaysonh
seryb@yahoo.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jsaaea>

Recommended Citation

Bounphasaysonh, Sery (2012) "Selected Poems," *Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement*. Vol. 7 : Iss. 1 , Article 9.

DOI: 10.7771/2153-8999.1051

Available at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jsaaea/vol7/iss1/9>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries.
Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

This is an Open Access journal. This means that it uses a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access. Readers may freely read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles. This journal is covered under the [CC BY-NC-ND license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).



Volume 7 (2012)

Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement

www.JSAAEA.org

A peer-reviewed
scholarly journal
published by the
National Association
for the Education &
Advancement of
Cambodian, Laotian,
and Vietnamese
Americans (NAFEA)

Selected Poems

by

Sery Bounphasaysonh

There is No Water

there is no water
no slick-red steel pressed
against the aorta
with enough pressure to
Listen to

often I wake in the night
burning
because
your shirt is open
one inch

I know it is a boy
who curls the hair 'round
your ear does he hear
sound of chitin shells
five thousand insects
bursting
against the earth

no bodies (nothing) open
the husk in my throat
my warm dry hand
(if only it were wet sand)
does not endure
only burns and
blossoms into dust



Readers are free to copy, display, and distribute this article, as long as the work is attributed to the author(s) and the **Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement**, it is distributed for non-commercial purposes only, and no alteration or transformation is made in the work. More details of this Creative Commons license are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>. All other uses must be approved by the author(s) or **JSAAEA**.

Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement, Vol. 7 (2012)

A Letter to Ria

in my dreams, I am crawling
between the teeth you never show.

somewhere else,
you are watching a movie
I have not seen.

I want to tell you these things,
that I do not understand
your childhood of broken sticks,
that I would like to try.

I want to tell you that
I am always being forgotten,
that I am full of ghosts,
that the child they took out of her
looked like a white bean
in a blood-filled jar. she told me this.
they wouldn't let me in the room.

I want to tell you that
I am not good at confession,
that I am a circus ape,
hands fluttering like an injured bird,
trying to explain to you
with this empty gimmick,
in unnatural language,
how to understand
the space that inhabits us.

About the Author



Sery Bounphasaysonh was born in Laos, but has lived most of his life in the United States. He is new to publishing, but not new to writing which he has been working on sporadically for well over a decade. He is a member of monthly writing workshop group that he originally organized in 2004. He currently lives and works in Massachusetts where he runs a small, but growing family business.



Volume 7 (2012)

Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement

www.JSAAEA.org

A peer-reviewed
scholarly journal
published by the
National Association
& Advancement of
Cambodian, Laotian,
and Vietnamese
Americans (NAFEA)

Editor

Dr. Wayne E. Wright

University of Texas, San Antonio

Associate Editors

Dr. Chhany Sak-Humphry

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Dr. Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy

University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Book Review Editor

Dr. Vichet Chhuon

University of Minnesota

Creative Works Editor

Bryan Thao Worra

Lao Assistance Center

Special Advisor

Gregory Green

Curator, Echols Collection on Southeast Asia, Cornell University Library

Journal Manager

Sovicheth Boun

University of Texas, San Antonio

Comments and questions for the editorial staff may be directed to jsaaea@lists.sis.utsa.edu

Editorial Review Board

Dr. Steve Arounsack

California State University, Stanislaus

Dr. Phala Chea

Lowell Public Schools

Dr. Loan Dao

Cancer Prevention Institute of California

Dr. Changming Duan

University of Missouri, Kansas City

Dr. Jeremy Hein

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Dr. Samlong Inthaly

Minneapolis Public Schools

Dr. Kevin K. Kumashiro

University of Illinois, Chicago

Dr. Carl L. Bankston III

Tulane University

Dr. George Chigas

University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Dr. Hien Duc Do

San Jose State University

Dr. Sophal Ear

U.S. Naval Postgraduate School

Dr. Nancy H. Hornberger

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Peter Nien-Chu Kiang

University of Massachusetts, Boston

Dr. Ha Lam

Arizona State University

Dr. Jonathan H. X. Lee

San Francisco State University

Dr. Sue Needham

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Dr. Bic Ngo

University of Minnesota

Dr. Leakhena Nou

California State University, Long Beach

Dr. Isabelle Thuy Pelaud

San Francisco State University

Dr. Giang Pham

University of Minnesota

Dr. Bounlieng Phommasouvanh

Minnesota Department of Education

Dr. Kalyani Rai

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Dr. Soveacha Ros

Royal University of Phnom Penh

Dr. Nancy J. Smith-Hefner

Boston University

Dr. Christine Su

Ohio University

Dr. Loan Tran

University of California, Riverside

Dr. Tinou Tran

Aliief Independent School District

Dr. Linda Trinh Vo

University of California, Irvine

Dr. Zha Blong Xiong

University of Minnesota

Dr. Stacey Lee

University of Wisconsin, Madison

KimOanh Nguyen-Lam

U.S. Department of Education

Dr. Max Niedzwiecki

Daylight Consulting Group

Dr. Clara Park

California State University, Northridge

Dr. Mark Pfeifer

SUNY Institute of Technology

Dr. Loan T. Phan

University of New Hampshire

Dr. Karen Quintiliani

California State University, Long Beach

Dr. Angela Reyes

Hunter College, The City University of New York

Dr. Fay Shin

California State University, Long Beach

Dr. Cathy J. Schlund-Vials

University of Connecticut, Storrs

Dr. Yer J. Thao

Portland State University

Dr. Myluong Tran

San Diego State University

Dr. Khatharya Um

University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Terrence G. Wiley

Center for Applied Linguistics

Dr. Kou Yang

California State University, Stanislaus

Doctoral Student Editorial Review Board

Keo Chea-Young

University of Pennsylvania

Ketmani Kouanchao

California State University, Fullerton

Ravy Lao

University of California, Santa Barbara

Thien-Huong Ninh

University of Southern California

Vanna Som

Harvard University

Krissyvan Truong

Claremont Graduate University

Yang Sao Xiong

University of California, Los Angeles

Annie BichLoan Duong

San Joaquin County Office of Education

Peter Tan Keo

Columbia University

Monirith Ly

Texas State University-San Marcos

Malaphone Phommasa

University of California, Santa Barbara

Alisia Tran

University of Minnesota

Silvy Un

University of Minnesota

Yeng Yang

University of Texas, San Antonio