2012

Selected Poems

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Recommended Citation
DOI: 10.7771/2153-8999.1051
Available at: https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jsaaea/vol7/iss1/9

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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
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.
Bounphasaysonh—Selected Poems

Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement

Volume 7 (2012)

www.JSAAEA.org

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