

LOST HORSE PRESS

is pleased to announce the publication of

I GO TO THE RUINED PLACE

Contemporary Poems in Defense of

Global Human Rights

edited by

MELISSA KWASNY & M.L. SMOKER

FROM THE INTRODUCTION

...WHEN WE MADE OUR CALL for submissions for an anthology of poems in defense of human rights, the allegations of torture were foremost in our minds. We knew people were outraged, saddened, profoundly moved and ashamed. But we also wanted to reach people who had suffered violations of their own rights from circumstances across the globe, or whose families had, or for whom preventing or healing these violations had become a life's work. We drafted our call loosely: *We are increasingly witness to torture, terrorisms and other violations of human rights at unprecedented degrees. What do our instincts tell us and what is our response to these violations? What is our vision of a future wherein human rights are not only respected but expanded?*

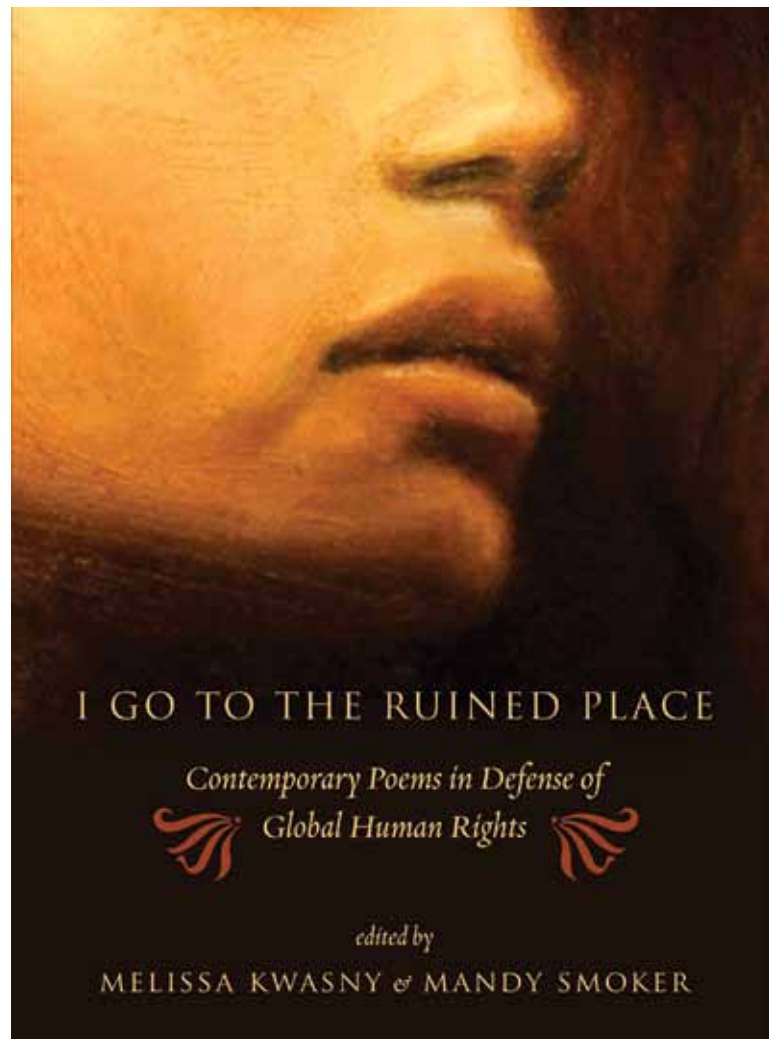
What we received were both first hand accounts of violation—see prisoner Adrian English's "Raped Man's Stream of Consciousness," or Farnoosh Moshiri's poem recounting the terror of giving birth in Iran, or Li-Young Lee's "Self-Help for Fellow Refugees"—and responses from people who feel struck personally by the blows enacted on others: To speak for, to speak as, and to speak against. We were surprised at the range of issues spoken to by the poets. While torture remained a critical topic, as well as issues at stake in the Iraq War, there were also poems that addressed immigrant rights, prisoners' rights, the Holocaust, the wars in Cambodia, Vietnam, Serbia, South America, Palestine and Israel. We received poems that spoke of suicide bombing, violence against women, the aftermath of 9/11, and outlawing marriage for gay Americans.

We were also moved at the range of experience among the responders: homeless advocates, civil rights workers, clinical social workers, medics, the mentally ill, veterans, humanitarian aid workers, teachers, conscientious objectors, and, of course, many writers who work and fight daily for social justice in their communities. We are particularly proud of the number of Native American poets included in this anthology, something unusual in anthologies of this sort. It seemed to us impossible to collect a group of poems on human rights issues if we didn't acknowledge the far reaching and often appalling violations that have taken place in our own country, upon the first citizens of this land who belong to five-hundred-sixty-two federally recognized tribes who function as sovereign nations. It is the acknowledgement of this history, among others, that will allow us to move forward as a country with a clearer conscience, extending our hand to other nations and other peoples who continue to endure neglect and abuse.

—MELISSA KWASNY & M.L. SMOKER

CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE

SANDRA ALCOSSER • ADRIAN D. ENGLISH • ADRIAN C. LOUIS • MOHJA KAHF • GABE FURSHONG • TIFFANY MIDGE • BRIDGET WHEARTY • FRANK ORTEGA • MATTHEW KALER • LOIS RED ELK • LOWELL JAEGER • CAROLYNE WRIGHT • EUGENIA TOLEDO • ILYA KAMINSKY • ELLEN BASS • JUDITH H. MONTGOMERY • FARNOOSH MOSHIRI • JOSEPH BATHANTI • DR PETER ANDERSON • KIM GOLDBERG • SARAH CONOVER • ERIC TORGERSEN • CHRISTI KRAMER • WILLA SCHNEBERG • STACEY WAITE • JEREMY HALINEN • TAMIKO BEYER • ROGER DUNSMORE • G.M. GRAFTON • CLAIRE KAGEYAMA-RAMAKRISHNAN • BENJAMIN L. PÉREZ • ELIZABETH MARTÍNEZ HUERGO • PRABHAKAR VASAN • MARILYN KRYSL • ANN HUNKINS • ERIKA T. WURTH • NICHOLAS SAMARAS • CHRISTOPHER HOWELL • PETER MARCUS • MARTHA COLLINS • MARK BRAZAITIS • PHILIP METRES • MARVIN BELL • MARK PAWLAK • PHILIP MEMMER • WARREN SLESINGER • RHONDA PETTIT • AIMEE PARKISON • NATALIE PEETERSE • SUSAN RICH • JOEL LONG • DONNA BROOK • SCOTT HIGHTOWER • SHERYL NOETHE • VICTOR CAMILLO • C.K. WILLIAMS • CAROLYN FORCHÉ • YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA • LI-YOUNG LEE



I GO TO THE RUINED PLACE

Contemporary Poems in Defense of
Global Human Rights

edited by

MELISSA KWASNY & MANDY SMOKER

ISBN 978-0-9800289-7-3 • POETRY • PUB DATE: NOV 2009
6 X 8 • 168 PP • \$18 US • \$25 CANADA

WE LIVED HAPPILY DURING THE WAR

And when they bombed other people's houses, we

protested
but not enough, we opposed them but not

enough. I was
in my bed, around my bed America

was falling: invisible house by invisible house by invisible house.

I took a chair outside and watched the sun.

In the sixth month
of a disastrous reign in the house of hands

in the street of hands in the city of hands in the country of hands
our great country of hands, we (forgive us)

lived happily during the war.

—ILYA KAMINSKY

TO ORDER DIRECTLY FROM LOST HORSE PRESS:

LOST HORSE PRESS

105 Lost Horse Lane
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

Voice: 208.255.4410 • Fax: 208.255.1560

Email: losthorsepress@mindspring.com

Web: www.losthorsepress.org

OR CONTACT OUR DISTRIBUTOR:

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PRESS

534 E. Spokane Falls Blvd. • Suite 203
Spokane, WA 99202

Voice: 509.368.6574 • Fax: 509.368.6596

Email: ewupress@mail.ewu.edu • Web: www.ewu.edu/ewupress