

Cockroaches ... 虫喰

赤い坊を食せぬらぬら食ふために他人は母に言ふバト戦の後

短歌に和訳

* A proposal by someone to my mom after the Vietnam War: *Why don't you sell your baby, you don't have anything to eat?*

妹は産むなよ! 食事は皆おれに任せと4才兄

* A response by my four-year-old brother: *No, don't sell my sister! There are lots of cockroaches for us to eat!*

* When I returned to the country eighteen years later, I saw them - large, brown shiny tanks on the wall, evidence of my brother's love for me.

十八年後に帰ればへいどはに光りたる茶のたぐ群

(和訳後)

When I First Saw Daddy ...

初めて父に会い時

長歌へ和訳

* he was like an Egyptian cat; skinny, foraging, and stern, just released from a Vietcong prison. He told us he hated the color red. Sixteen years later, he wears a red sweatshirt and smiles. The pin tip opening in his heart enough to let in a dribble of red.

エジプトの猫のジエセリ剛たりバトコノ猫放たれ
父は語りし赤色を憎みたるは16年経て赤きシャツ
此に笑ふ花心臓にピンポイント思ひ出せし赤き血

Grandma (A Hologram)

おばあちゃん。 グラマ。(脳裏にたて)

* In your physical absence, the hologram of me still contains you like a cut leaf - you are part of the light scattered from me so that even a tiny fragment, an eyelash, still contains the whole of you.

うしあは不在の私もわが内に染み入り
ふちどう子葉のまじり 陽の一部 乱反射に
きららに 今も確かに有りぬ全て

The Road

短歌へ和訳

* I say my children are like lightning bugs.

闇に照る子葉のまじり 時に思ふ無き子光

I see how they glow in the dark.

ocean in a conch shell

Sometimes, it is the only light I see.

F-16 fighter jet overhead in an empty cup pressed against the ear

頭上にてF16の戦闘キ
空のトップを耳に押しあつ