

CAI TIANXIN

In the ocean of the world

1

We swim in the ocean of the world
our daytime half submerged in the water
our nighttime half floating on the surface

2

From the balcony, what have you seen?
spring sailing to another harbour –
here, there, often changing course

3

The bridge on the overpass is solid
the white sail, the red sail
collide with it and shatter in the dusk

4

We swim in the ocean of the world
death an enticing flag
on top of an unattainable mast

Hangzhou, 1991

我们在世界的海洋上游泳

1

我们在世界的海洋上游泳
白天的一半没入水中
夜晚的一半浮出水面

2

在阳台上，你看见什么了吗？
春天正驶向另一个码头
这里，那里，不时改变着航向

3

立交桥是坚定的
白色的帆，红色的帆
在一个黄昏撞得粉碎

4

我们在世界的海洋上游泳
死亡是面诱人的旗帜
悬挂在不可企及的桅杆上方

1991，杭州

Sunlight

The sun is a mango.
Cut open, it's the day.
Left uncut, the evening.
We swallow sunlight
Making strong muscles.
While we sleep
Sunlight flows into our blood
Travels throughout our body.
On its journey it meets
Another piece of sunlight.

Hangzhou, 1989

Translated from the Chinese by James Booze and John Rosenwald

阳 光

太阳是一只芒果
切开就是白天
不切开就是夜晚
我们吞吃阳光
强壮了肌肉
而当我们安寝
阳光汇入了血液
在我们的身体里旅行
它没有停歇
又遇上了另一片阳光

1989，杭州

Poem about fish

I like to think of cars as words.
It's easy to change the roots of words.
Make a U-turn, for example,
and you will find an adjective.
People bump into each other on the freeway
sometimes creating totally new sentences.
If you drive a car into the Pacific
the sea water will know how to refine it.
When you swim out of the car you will
instantly come across a poem about fish.

California, 1993

Translated from the Chinese by James Booze

关于鱼的诗

我喜欢把汽车看作单词
单词容易改变词性
比如打一个 U 弯
就可以获得形容词
它们相互撞击，在高速公路上
有时会产生全新的句子
把车开进太平洋吧
海水知道如何润色
我们侧身游出车门
顷刻发现一首关于鱼的诗

1993，加利福尼亚

The river of my mind

I like to stand before you
and let the light of your forehead
shine upon the river of my mind

Your luxuriant hair
scatters over the riverbanks like villages
its fragrance floats on the wind

When I move closer
the small boat of your nose
swiftly turns away

Hangzhou, 1991

心灵的水面

我喜欢在你面前
让你额头的灯光
映照我心灵的水面

那束亮丽的秀发
如村庄散落河岸
芳香随风飘溢

当我俯身向下
你鼻梁的船只
倏然远去

1991, 杭州

Overnight boat

1

She sits quite still
arms folded into an
isosceles quadrilateral
fascinating as a riddle

2

When she lifts her head
her eyes under her brown hair
are like two fresh and tender grapes
which I devour greedily

3

Her beautiful leg stretches
like a motionless pendulum
the sea's waves swell
and my sleep evaporates

4

She smiles fleetingly
revealing two lines of teeth
like a pomegranate
suspended open in the air

Aegean Sea, 1999

夜 航

1

她端坐不动
双臂怀抱
谜一样诱人的
等腰四边形

2

当她抬起头
那棕色发架下
两颗鲜嫩的葡萄
迅速被我吞吃

3

美腿舒展
仿佛停滞的钟摆
海浪在增高
睡意在减少

4

嫣然一笑
露出两行牙齿
犹如开裂的石榴
悬浮在空气中

1999, 爱琴海

Niagara Falls

Above the blue, white.
Surrounded by blue, white,
like death wallowing in illusions.

Birds with more feathers than tourists' hair.
Earlier than lovers' lips, the birds lips
kiss the curtain of rain.

Relaxed, I release
names into the water. They float off
as night falls.

A pale sun shivers. One step
closer to death. Thousands of icy hands
brush the nape of my neck.

New York-Ontario, 1994

Translated from the Chinese by John Rosenwald

尼亚加拉瀑布

蓝色之上的白色
被蓝色包围的白色
像沉溺于梦幻的死亡

鸟的羽毛多于游人的发丝
鸟的嘴唇比情侣的嘴唇
更早触及云母的雨帘

我随意说出几个名字
让它们从水上漂走
和黑夜一起降临

一枚失血的太阳颤抖了
向死亡再进一步
一千只冰凉的手伸入我的后颈项

1994, 纽约-安大略

The reading

A gong is struck but not for the harvest season
a pianist in a short-sleeved shirt brandishes his arms
after they get the audience's full attention
the hostess speaks in a measured tone

But we live at the other end of the rainbow
dry our clothes on the trees of the Milky Way
Perhaps we have no words to say to the Earth
we ride away on the horses of the Brandenburg Gate

Berlin, 2004

朗诵

铜锤敲响并不意味着丰收季节的来临
那穿短袖衬衫的钢琴师挥舞着双臂
在听众的感官全部打开之后
女主持用一种委婉的语调说话

可我们住在彩虹桥的另一头
把洗净的衣服晾在银河树的枝桠上
或许我们对地球已无话可说
各自驾着布兰登堡门顶上的马车离去

2004, 柏林

The highest pleasure

Let them travel, the guests –
the beautiful moth with golden spots
the mole with bright red paws

the shrubbery blooming with morning glory
the stream with its bubbling sound
and the green grass rippling behind

Somebody paints syrup on a tree
Lot's wife looks back and suddenly
changes into a pillar of salt

Night does not know night's own melody
loneliness does not know the marvel of loneliness
the highest pleasure is outside of time

California, 1993

最高乐趣

请客人们旅行吧
美丽的金斑蛾
鼯鼠腓红的手

开蜡花的灌木丛
小溪的喧响之流
青草在身后起伏不定

人们在树上涂抹糖浆
罗得之妻在逃离时回望
顷刻化为一根盐柱

夜晚不知道夜晚的吟唱
孤独不知道孤独的美妙
没有时间的最高乐趣

1993, 加利福尼亚

At water's edge

Dusk is approaching. Thousands of cold crows gather above the lake. The temperature drops to the top of a nearby hill, the sunset in the west vanishing in shrubbery.

At water's edge, I sing in a low voice, imagine lapping the water with my tongue until stars appear, and the words of the song, and the lines of tears.

Hangzhou, 1991

在水边

黄昏来临, 犹如十万只寒鸦,
在湖上翻飞; 而气温下降,
到附近的山头, 像西沉的落日
消失在灌木丛中。

我独自低吟浅唱, 在水边,
用舌头轻拍水面, 溅击浪花。
直到星星出现, 在歌词中,
潜然泪下。

1991, 杭州

V

Lake Titicaca

When we were at the Lima airport
The sky was covered with dark clouds

Now we're in the air
The flight map shows Cuzco on the left

We can't see the blue sky
only the dark blue lake

If old man Yu was here
Who could move rocks and soil

The water of the lake would hang in the air
Powerful as an Antarctic glacier

April 2016, Lima - La Paz

的的喀喀湖

在利马候机时
天空已乌云密布

库斯科在左侧
仅在航路图上显现

看不见蓝色的天空
只见到深蓝的湖水

假如真的有愚公
搬走那些岩石和泥土

湖水会悬于空中
威力胜过南极的冰川

4/2016 利马-拉巴斯

Boston

B is the three bridges connecting both sides
surrounded by a clear bay

O is the ocean, when the tide rises
bringing with it sea shells and young people

S is the sky, almost pure blue
With only a tiny cloud bringing dust from far away

T the number of times I visited here
no more or less than that, just three

O is the ocean again, at low tide
draining always pearls and knowledge

N is where my name ends and where No begins
refusal being an instinctive human need

June 2011, Providence - Boston

波士顿

B 是三座桥梁连接两岸

被一个清澈的海湾填充

O 是海洋，潮涨时分

带来的是贝壳和青春

S 是天空，几乎一片纯蓝

惟有一撮云，携来远方尘埃

T 是我造访她的次数

不多不少，刚好三回

O 还是海洋，潮退时分

遗落的是珍珠和知识

N 是我的名字，两记尾声

拒绝是人类本能的需要

6/2011，波士顿-普罗维登斯

Distant places

I'm always attracted by distant places,
Always attracted by floating scenery –
Only when the bird circles the rice-field
Do i notice its golden colour.
Only when the wind blows over
And rattles the peach tree by my side,
Do I find the shadow of its branches graceful.
Only when the sun shines fiercely on my face,
Do i find that the vineyard greener than the grass,
In the distance colours are veiled
But all the more enchanting.

Lavigny, 2007

远方

总是被远方吸引
总是被移动的风景吸引
只有当鸟儿回旋在稻田之上
才注意到那一片金黄
只有当风儿吹过
摇响身边的那棵桃树
才发现它的枝叶影子绰约
只有当阳光猛烈地照射到脸上
才发现葡萄园的绿色浓于青草
远方的色泽暗淡下来
但它仍然十分迷人

2007, 拉芬尼

South Indian Garden

A squirrel's tail brushes the window sill.
A plume falls from the sky.
Insects sing under the palm trees
drowning the noise of the market nearby.

A blue peacock brings news from the North.
People bathe in the Ganges
washing away selfish motives and desires,
while the trunks of the elephants curl.

I have never been so close
to animals, living together —
I can see my heart more clearly now
than during those long nocturnal flights.

Bangalore, 2003

Translation into English Sudeep Sen

南印度花园

松鼠的尾巴闪过窗台
一片羽毛飘零在空中
棕榈树下昆虫的鸣叫
淹没了附近市井的喧闹

蓝孔雀带回北方的消息
沐浴的人们浸泡在恒河里
不停地洗涤私念和欲望
大象的鼻子层层卷曲

我从未如此亲近地
与动物们生活在一起
比天空中那些漫漫的长夜
更能观照自己的内心

2003, 班加罗尔

Variations on a Winter's Day

1 Clouds

Those white supernatural holy bodies
I have seen with my own eyes how they dissolve into the blue
They are a stretch of summer beach in Florida
a jutting crag in a Colorado canyon
or simply a body that lets me blindly fall in

2 Music

Between the trees and the houses I hear
the early morning ocean slowing down
The sun leans into the air to capture
Something that cannot be captured

3 Courtyard

The green lawn sparkling with drops of dew
is divided by a footpath of white sand
the yellow oak leaves fallen there
across the legendary courtyard
are the colour of a Mondrian painting in Amsterdam

4 Fan-tailed bird

A passing long-tailed bird rests on the roof
steps lightly with feathers of incomparable beauty
Another night, hidden behind me
She gazed at me solemn and sacred
like an emerald sky gazing at the ocean
while the ocean gazes at the moon's shadow

5 A girl

A night of long fingernails
a pair of eyes blown away by the wind
atop the bridge of your nose
I discover Hawaii

Fresno, 1993

Translated from the Chinese by Kuo-ch'ing Tu and Robert Backus

冬日的变奏

1. 云 彩

那些白色的超凡入圣的天物
我曾亲眼看见它们溶化在蓝天里
它们是佛罗里达夏季的一片海滩
是科罗拉多峡谷中的一块崖石
或只是一个躯体让我盲目地坠入

2. 音 乐

我看见树木与房舍之间
早晨的大海缓慢下来
太阳倾身在空气里捕捉
那无法捕捉到的东西

3. 天 井

那片闪耀着露珠的绿色草坪
被几条白色的小径分隔
橡树的叶子散落其中
来自阿默斯福特的蒙德里安
从传说的天井里走过

4. 扇尾鸟

一只过路的扇尾鸟栖息在屋顶上
轻捷的脚步，美丽无比的羽毛
又一个夜晚潜伏在我的身后
她凝望着我庄严神圣犹如
碧空凝望着大海，大海凝望着月影

5. 女 子

长长的指甲之夜
一双被风吹散了的眼睛
我在你的鼻梁上
发现了火奴鲁鲁

1993，弗雷斯诺

Every cloud has its own name

The plane passes through thick clouds
Shakes up and down, left and right
Into time extending endlessly

Since we have chosen the sky
We should sacrifice our bodies
Because every cloud has its own name

We can map the clouds
Measure the distance between them
And paint them four different colors

Our future is like that
The hardships of life
Are as infinite as the sky

每一片云都有它的名字

飞机穿越厚厚的云层
上下颠簸左右摇晃
时间无穷无尽地延伸

既然我们选择了天空
就应该把自己的身体献出
每一片云都有它的名字

我们可以把它们描画出来
标出大小和相互间的距离
再添上四种不同的颜色

我们的未来之路也是如此
天空有多么辽阔
人生就有多么曲折

2013，洛杉矶-上海

The Heart of a Poet

a glimmer of light appears suddenly
in the darkly clouded sky
giving the lake a bluish tinge.

the heart of a poet should be like this.
after pushing aside the fog of sadness,
it opens a window in the dark.

Lavigny, 2007

诗人的心

一片些微的亮光突然
在乌云密布的天空出现
给湖水添加了一丝蓝色

诗人的心也理应如此
拨开忧愁的迷雾之后
在黑暗中打开一扇窗子

2007, 拉芬尼