

**MOON CHUNG-HEE**

# Butterfly Poet

—Translated the from Korean  
by Clare You and Zack Rogow

While I was waiting for you in the car  
by the entrance to Dosan Park  
a butterfly flew in  
Is this creature writing her own myth?  
Like a poet trying to lay an egg in the void  
the butterfly pushes the air with her tender wings  
trying with all her might to say something

She knows how to construct a tower of language  
and how—just like that!—to destroy it

A butterfly is God's own postcard  
from an address so distant and mythical  
she brings messages from the departed  
and her sad beard comprehends the language of the underworld

While waiting for you  
by the entrance to Dosan Park  
I returned from a thousand-mile journey shadowing a butterfly

**Clare You** taught in and coordinated the Korean program at the University of California, Berkeley. She also served as chair of the Center for Korean Studies. She has cotranslated modern Korean poetry and fiction into English, including *Flowers Long for Stars: Poems by Oh Sae-young*; *The Three Way Tavern: Selected Poems by Ko Un*; and *I Must Be the Wind* by Moon Chung-hee. She received the Manhae Prize in 2017.

**Zack Rogow** was a cowinner of the PEN/Book-of-the-Month Club Translation Prize for *Earthlight* by André Breton and winner of a Bay Area Book Reviewers Association (BABRA) Award for his translation of George Sand's *Horace*.

**Moon Chung-hee** was a poetry prodigy as a young woman, publishing her first collection while still in her teens. She has taught at Dongguk University and Korea University and has served as the chair of the Society of Korean Poets. Her books in English are *Woman on the Terrace: Poems* and *I Must Be the Wind*. She was awarded the coveted Cikada Prize in 2010.

**LISA HOCHSTEIN**

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Mixed-media collage, 7 x 6 in

