



Modern Poetry in Translation
Queen's College
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PRESS RELEASE

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'Parnassus'

***Modern Poetry in Translation* Third Series Number 17**

Edited by David and Helen Constantine

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Modern Poetry in Translation is the official poetry magazine partner of Southbank Centre's 'Poetry Parnassus' Festival (26th June – 1st July 2012), a part of Southbank Centre's Festival of the World with MasterCard. This will be the largest ever gathering of poets from around the world. In our 'Parnassus' issue we have 17 of them, in translation, drawn from the 204 participating countries. Publishing them, as well as other poets from the sixth century BC to the present day, we offer our characteristic variety of voices, cultures and perspectives. Every issue of *MPT* is an anthology gathered across the frontiers of space and time, and 'Parnassus' is one we are particularly proud of.

Among the poets in 'Parnassus' are Pindar, Hölderlin, Li Bai, Cavafy, Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi, Adel Guémar and Gerður Kristný. We have essays on poetic improvisation in Tuscany and Wales. And here you will also find the winning poems from our first Poetry Translation Competition.

'Parnassus' will be launched at 8pm on 27th June in Southbank Centre's Saison Poetry Library, with readings by a number of our featured poets and translators. Admission is free but space is limited. To book, email specialedition@poetrylibrary.org.uk

Further information: David and Helen Constantine editors@mptmagazine.com 07756943802

Notes to Editors

Modern Poetry in Translation (*MPT*) is the UK's most important poetry translation magazine and was founded in 1965 by Ted Hughes and Daniel Weissbort. They had two principal ambitions: to get poetry out from behind the Iron Curtain into a wider circulation in English and to benefit writers and the reading public in Britain and America by confronting them with good work from abroad. They published poetry that dealt truthfully with the real world. For more than 45 years *MPT* has continued and widened that founding intent. Now in its Third Series (since 2004) *MPT* builds on the first editors' extraordinary achievement. It affirms the vital importance of poetry in the modern world. It brings the best new translations, essays, and reviews that address such characteristic signs of our times as exile, the movement of peoples, the search for asylum, and the speaking of languages outside their native home. The present editors, David and Helen Constantine, in a different political landscape, have continued in the essential spirit and ambition of Hughes and Weissbort. Further, by understanding the 'modern' in the magazine's title to mean any lively new translation of any poetry from whatever age, they ensure that *MPT* crosses frontiers of time as well as of space. (cont.)



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Ted Hughes founded Poetry International on the South Bank in 1967 and was its first director. *MPT* published poets appearing at the third Festival in 1970. That natural and valuable association continues today, with *MPT*'s association with Poetry Parnassus as official poetry magazine partner.

Poetry Parnassus (26 June – 1 July 2012, across Southbank Centre). This week-long celebratory gathering will see poets being invited from each of the 204 competing Olympic nations – from Uzbekistan, Tuvalu and Samoa to Cape Verde and Azerbaijan – to take part in the largest poetry festival in world history. Led by Artist in Residence and Curator Simon Armitage, *Poetry Parnassus* will feature readings, workshops and a final gala event with all the poets. Every poet will also contribute a poem in their own language for *The World Record*, a book which will champion translation and be published by Bloodaxe Books, with a one-off handwritten edition housed in Southbank Centre's Saison Poetry Library. Southbank Centre received over 6,000 nominations from members of the public and poetry organisations from around the world. With additional support from Arts Council England and also part of *London 2012 Festival*.

Southbank Centre's Festival of the World with MasterCard (1 June to 9 September 2012). Southbank Centre's summer 2012 site-wide *Festival of the World* with MasterCard opens on 1 June 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee Weekend, and closes on 9 September 2012, the final day of the Paralympic Games. The Festival is inspired by the cultural vision of Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937, who believed the arts could raise the aspirations of young people in the same way as sport. Central to the summer celebrations will be projects from the UK and around the world that showcase how art transforms lives as Southbank Centre is turned into an international learning site for people of all ages and backgrounds. The site will again be transformed with art installations, the reopening of the Queen Elizabeth Hall roof garden, an urban beach with a twist, weekly food markets and an exhibition in the Royal Festival Hall, which will set Pierre de Coubertin's work alongside other educational visionaries such as Arnold J. Toynbee and John Ruskin. For further information, please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk/world

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following the major refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.



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