

SHADOW

PLAY



*SHADOW
PLAY*

An Artists' Book by
Ann M. Kresge

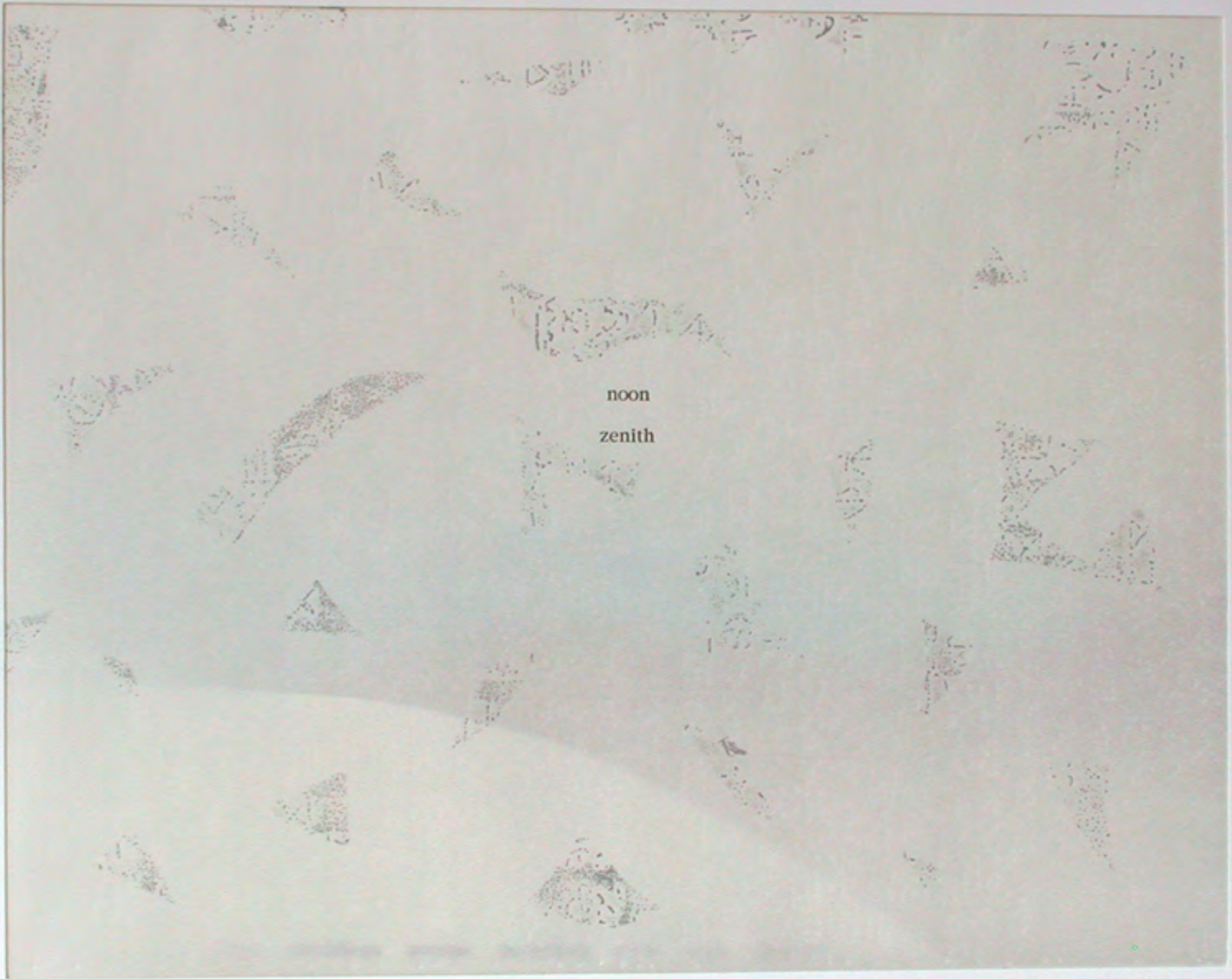
*Poems by
Melinda Kennedy*

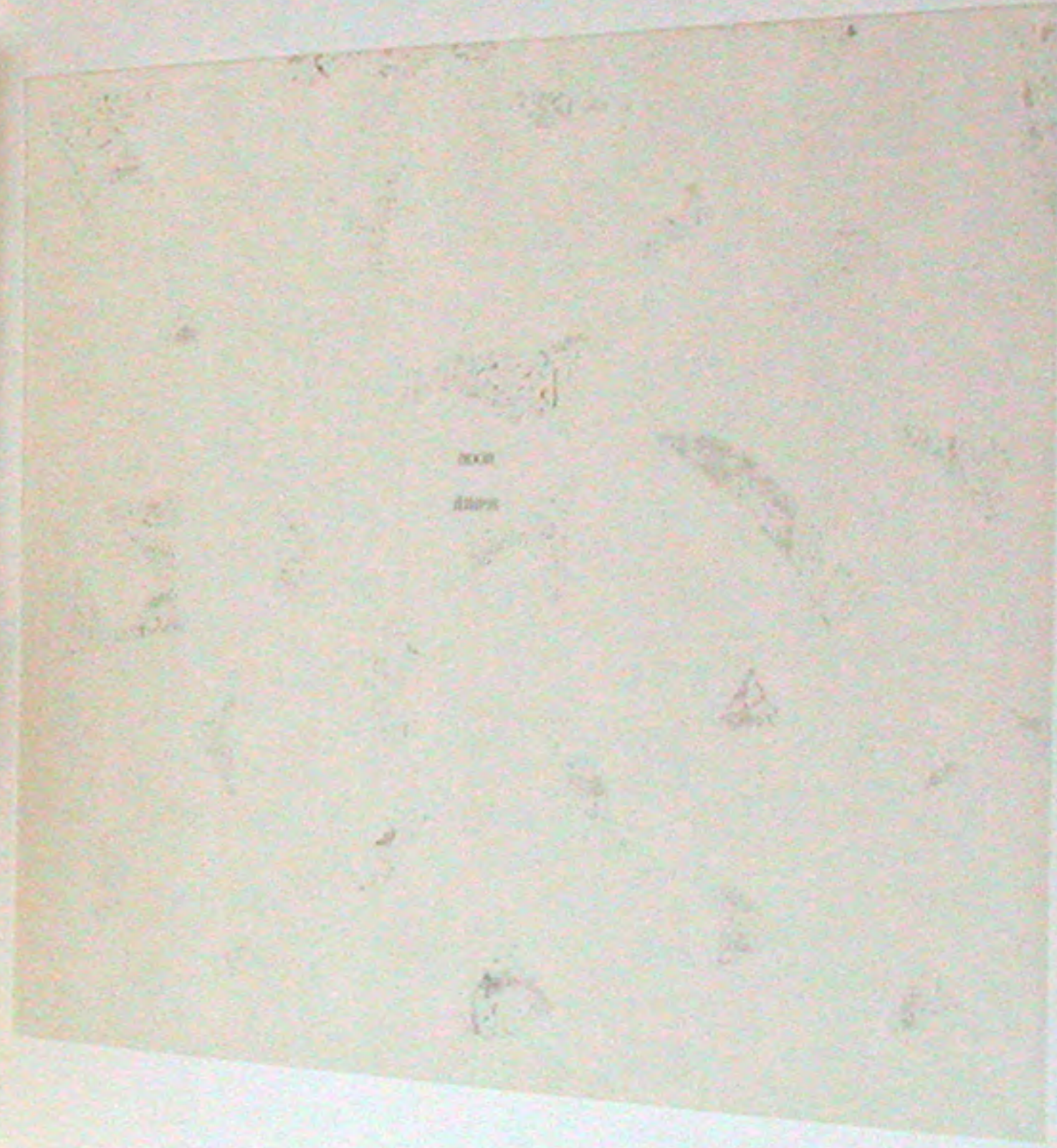
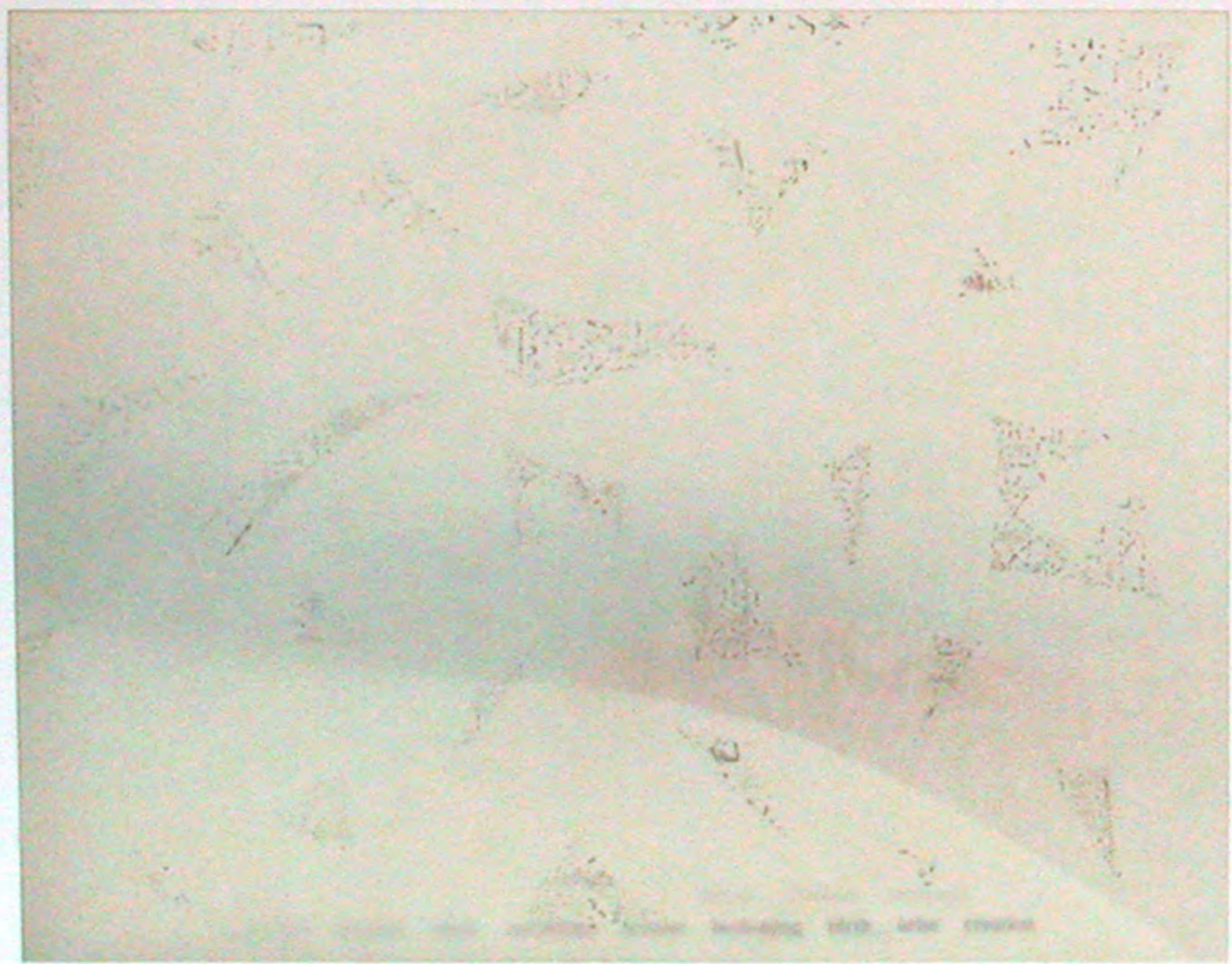
Published by
The Library Fellows
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Washington, D.C.
1998

This limited edition of 125 handmade books was created for and supported by the Library Fellows of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. It was produced by the artist in her studio, Mossybrook Press in High Falls, N.Y. and at WSW in Rosendale, N.Y. The poems are by Melinda Kennedy and the other text was collaboratively written. The type, New York (Macintosh) and Avant Garde, was letterpress printed by the artist on a Vandercook Press. Various archival, acid free and Asian papers were used including Abaca (banana leaf) paper which was handmade by the artist. Printmaking processes combine etching, relief and chine colle. Production assistance was provided by Val Wells, Amy Ciullo and Suzanne Taetsch. The artist thanks Ms. Kennedy for her collaborative spirit, her family for their support, the MacDowell Colony for time, and the Library Fellows who made the project possible. Special thanks to the traditional and contemporary Shadow Players of the world who inspired this effort.

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think string dawn walkings avenue beckoning birth arise creation

arrival harmony pathways
flame victory

route

comets

shadows

stars

dreams

night

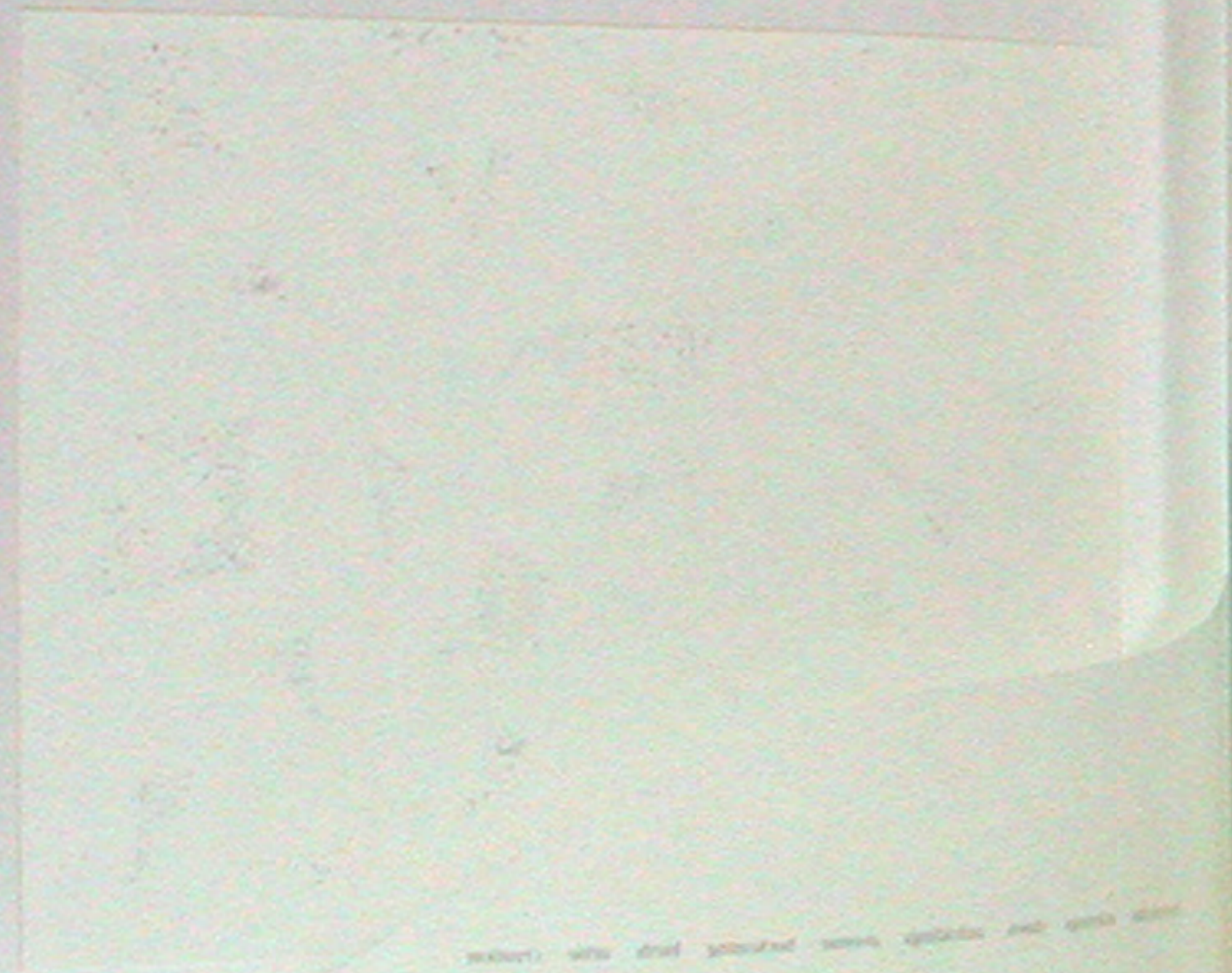
sleep

end

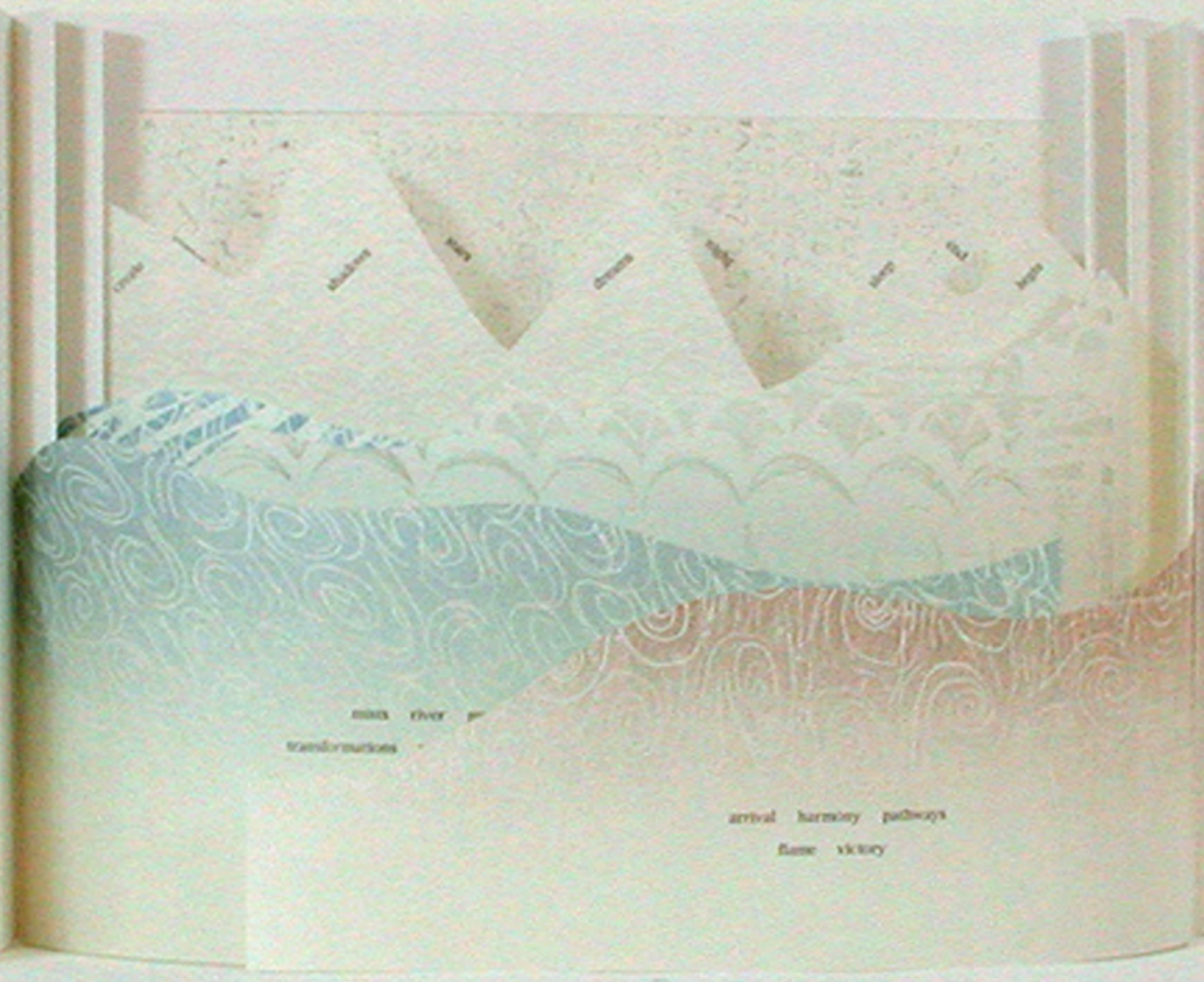
begin

thresholds stirrings dawn unfoldings avenue beckoning birth arise creation

arrival harmony pathways
flame victory



...the first



... ..
transformations

arrival harmony pathways
flame victory



create

comets

shadows

stars

dreams

night

sleep

end

begin

mists river morning journeys
transformations youth waves illusions wisdom

create

comets

shadows

stars

dreams

night

sleep

end

begin

orchards shadows cool breezes calm
rebirth solitude joy renewal

create

comets

shadows

stars

dreams

night

sleep

end

begin

horizon plateaus
patterns life immortal

create

comets

shadows

stars

dreams

night

sleep

end

begin

dreams chorus bones time whirlwinds secrets dance volcanoes



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Red

Her chariot a monstrance
a golden shadow

at dawn she alights
among elephants
to triumph of thunder
and a tiger's
despairing
cry

Her feet are planted in mud
her lotus
thrusts sunward
from abyss over abyss
Among rooted stems

glide
the red carp
of her dreams
Impervious she suckles
the deities

in a sea of milk
Snow follows
her footsteps

yet the red dawn also
must break

Lakshmi

Creation

Blue

Immobile
on cobalt
her swan

Syllables
lute string

Laughter
and falling

The beating
is strophe
antiphona

Forever
fecundity
the lotus
Immortal

Sarasvati
Wisdom

Blue

Immobile
on cobalt seas
her swan floats

Syllables of rain
cascade
lute strings woven
of lightning

Laughter blossoms
in torrents
and falling stars

The beating of her heart
is strophe and antistrophe
antiphonal echoes
a rainbow arching

Forever
fecundity
the lotus
immortal

Sarasvati

Wisdom

White

And over there
those mountains
a whiteness

snow snow
snow boiling in light
bedazzled

everywhere snow
snow falling
snow rising

up out of those mountains
towards the blinding
light

and in the foreground
she danced
she was dancing

danced on ashes
danced on the ashes of memories
danced on the gray ashes of all those
begettings

and deaths ashes
of mountains
danced on gray ash in the white light
rubies in her diadem flashing dazzling
but always snow
light
purity
whiteness

bedazzled

dazzling
She was light herself
her arms made love
sinuously
to the light

her bare feet jangled among ashes
and incinerated bone
She was the mountains
the whiteness
the snow

the bedazzlement

Parvati

Enlightenment

Gold

Blazing she rides
the shadow of a tiger
over a sea of gold
hurls lightning
at galaxies at the moon

From her eyes meteors
flash

Whirlwinds bear her beyond time
to the place where the eagle cries

Hers the mind's jewels
a confusion of pearls dreams sapphires comets
gold rings

stars
Her laughter rages in thunder
brazen

serpents coiling
from her lips fall syllables of flame
to sear

the darkness beneath
her sandaled feet
Mirrors come alive

at her passing

Hers forever
the gold
burning

of delight

Durga

Victory

Black

Black lava over rock
an obsidian lake
dark mirrors shadows
dark negatives

In the abyss she sleeps
dreams
her hair is a black tangle
of serpents

roots
weeds
arteries

She dreams volcanic conquests
darkness
pain

In her dream she dances
on an ocean of blood
tramples demons

ghosts
kingdoms
dreams millennial upheavals
invisible stars famine

As she dances
eons dissolve
into shadow

Earth cracks heaves

The goddess is ready
to be born

Kali

Cosmos

Green

Bowers glades forests
cool dappled shadow
the petals of vocables

falling

on grass

The third eye looks inward
sees

seeds forming

roots

coiling

hears

the trembling of drums

the hoofbeats of young elephants

Peacocks parade

by the river

The young moon is rising

reeds part as she passes

and calm pools quiver

awake

Joyous the trees

glimmer as mists

like smoke

vanish

And it is time

for Time

to begin

Sati

Renewal

SHADOW

PLAY

Shadow Play

is an invitation to participate in the
creation of your own story.

Inspired by Shadow Puppet Theater which occurs in many
cultures, it reflects the forms of Indonesian Shadow Play,
introduces the goddesses of Indian mythology, and
presents themes which are universal throughout the world's
stories. We invite you to share in these inspirations, combine
the elements, journey through the book, and create
Shadow Plays of your own.

How to Begin

This booklet poetically describes the cast of characters.
They are, at once, female archetypes, goddesses, places,
music, times of day, earth and life cycles. They are shapes
and symbols, each with a characteristic color, set of
attributes and movements.

Shadow Play

asks you to assume the role of the Javanese "Dalang",
the puppeteer who brings the characters to life by telling
tales through movement and verse. With lists,
story starters and poems we suggest story types:
*creation myths, wisdom tales, stories of tricksters, tales of
good vs. evil, myths of cosmic destruction and renewal.*

Though our impressions spring from Asian sources, we
encourage you to take these puppets where you want,
on the pathways of your own imagining.

As in the Wayang Kulit, or Javanese Shadow Play, you may
set the puppets in motion in front of or behind the enclosed
book/stage. Shine a light behind the puppets to project
their shadows through the book or move them in front of
and through the pages as actors on a layered stage.

To release the puppets, unfold the wave shaped flaps of
the folio and gently lift them from their places.....

Red

earth

birth

dawn

goddess

unfold

elephant

crown

omens

avenues

ascend

anthem

stirrings

thresholds

*She rises from the milky
sea on a lotus blossom.
The world is created.*

*The puppets await to do your bidding
as you enact your own
creation myth.*

Blue
water
youth
morning
lotus
flow
swan
spiral
knowledge
rivers
transform
gong
wisdom
mists

*She falls from the heavens, her hair
becoming rivers which
impart knowledge.*

*The wisdom tale stretches forward to the place
where adventure beckons. Discover
where the puppets lead you.*

White
mountain
woman
noon
oracle
soar
eagle
ladder
transcendence
snow
conquer
zither
desire
zenith

*She is transformed from ashes to light,
scatters her enemies and shelters
her family on the mountaintop.*

*Ascend to the pinnacles where
wisdom reigns and the secrets
are revealed.*

Gold
sky
warrior
sunset
heroine
radiate
tiger
lightning
riddles
cave
struggle
flutesong
victory
flames

*She vanquishes the demon
who transforms himself
to beguile her.*

*Your puppet is a Trickster who triumphs
over evil. She has earned the right
to be called a heroine.*

Black
cosmos
death
midnight
shadow
collide
peacock
star
mystery
chasm
sleep
nocturne
resurrection
dream

*In dreams of destruction and renewals
she dreams the universe
into being.*

*Your puppets discover the cosmos and observe
galaxies in formation. The moon and
stars swim into view.*

Green
forest
rebirth
day
Kayon
renew
fish
arch
promise
orchard
dance
bells
journey
time

*She is the tree of life.
She is Time and
marks Time.*

*Your "kayon" is introduction and conclusion.
Your puppets have completed the cycle
only to begin again.*

How to operate the puppets

Red

Hold the vertical rod and move it upward and sideways through the landscape. Have it ascend from the sea. Squeeze the diagonal rod to move the arching "arm". Depending on the story you tell it may be a blooming flower, a crown, a figure emerging from clay, showered by elephants, a mound, a planet.....

Blue

Hold the vertical rod with one hand while rotating the other from the center. The character will transform in a circular motion, from river, to swan, to moon, to warrior, to reflection. Move it up and through the landscape, in front of or behind the book. Depending on your tale, it may be water, creature, goddess, morning.....

White

This puppet may be used upright or sideways, face forward or twirling. It is mountain, shelter, goddess in flight, winged creature, the moon. It may be moving or stationary. If you wish to stand it up as a part of the landscape or architecture, lean it behind the screen/book or place it in a holder (a piece of soft clay will do). Experiment with holding it against the book and further away to make the shadow loom larger and grow smaller.....

Gold

Hold the vertical rod in one hand and use the other to rotate the "leg" or lightning bolt. Depending on your tale, it may be warrior goddess, a sunset, a cave, the weather, the villain, the hero, the heroine, the volcano, the dynamic force.....

Black

A symmetrical character, hold it on top, bottom or sideways. Pull the string or appendages to make the hands/stars glitter. It can be the cosmos, the stars, night, turtle, the goddess of death and creation.....

Green

This character is the beginning and the end. Like the Javanese "kayon" it introduces, summarizes and finishes the story. It is tree, prop, place, the elements, the overview, fertility and time. Use it well.....

The puppets may be used individually to present the poems that follow or together to create the whole cycle. They may be used interchangeably or with new identities as you are inspired to create tales of your own.....

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the folio and gently lift them from their places.

Red

Red

Red

Red

Red

Red

Red

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Red

Red

Red

Red

Red

Red

Red

*She descends from the sky
as a lone warrior.
The world is created.*

*The puppets meet in the world
as you meet your own
creative spirit.*

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

Blue

*She falls from the heavens, her hair
becoming stars which
inspire knowledge.*

*The wisdom tale stretches forward to the place
where adventure begins. Discover
where the puppets lead you.*

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

*She is transformed from ashes to light,
scatters her enemies and shelters
her family on the mountaintop.*

*Ascend to the pinnacles where
wisdom reigns and the secrets
are revealed.*

Gold

Gold

Gold

Gold

Gold

Gold

Gold

Gold

Gold

Gold

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Gold

Gold

*She vanquishes the demon
who transforms himself
to beguile her.*

*Your puppet is a Trickster who triumphs
over evil. She has earned the right
to be called a heroine.*

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Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

Black

*In dreams of destruction and renewal
she dreams the universe
into being.*

*Your puppets discover the cosmos and observe
patterns in formation. The moon and
stars swirl into view.*

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

Green

*She is the tree of life.
She is Time and
marks Time.*

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only to begin again.*

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Experiment with holding it against the book and further away to
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Gold

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"leg" or lightning bolt. Depending on your tale, it may be warrior
goddess, a sunset, a cave, the weather, the villain, the hero, the
heroine, the volcano, the dynamic force.

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the string or appendages to make the hands/stars glitter. It can be
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a golden shadow

at dawn she alights
among elephants
to triumph of thunder
and a tiger's
despairing
cry

Her feet are planted in mud
her lotus
throats sunward
from abyss over abyss

Among rooted stems
glide
the red carp
of her dreams

Impervious she suckles
the delirious
in a sea of milk
Snow follows
her footsteps

yet the red dawn also
must break

Lakshmi
Creation

Blue

Immobile
on cubit seas
her boat floats

Syllables of rain
cascade
late strings woven
of lightning

Laughter blossoms
in torrents
and falling stars

The beating of her heart
is strophe and antistrophe
antiphonal
a rainbow arching
echoes

Forever
Secundity
the lotus
limerick

Saravati
Wisdom

White

And over there
those mountains
a whiteness

snow snow
snow boiling in light
bedazzled

everywhere snow
snow falling
snow rising

up out of those mountains
towards the blinding
light

and in the foreground
she danced
she was dancing

danced on ashes
danced on the ashes of memories
danced on the gray ashes of all those
begettings

and deaths
ashes
of mountains

danced on gray ash in the white light
rubies in her diadem flashing dazzling
but always snow
light
purity
whiteness

bedazzled
dazzling
She was light herself
her arms made love
sinuously
to the light

her bare feet jangled among ashes
and incinerated bone
She was the mountains
the whiteness
the snow

the bedazzlement

Parvati
Enlightenment

Gold

Blazing she rides
the shadow of a tiger
over a sea of gold
hurts lightning
at galaxies at the moon

From her eyes meteors
flash

Whirlwinds bear her beyond time
to the place where the eagle cries

Hers the mind's jewels
a confusion of pearls dreams sapphires comets
gold rings

stars
Her laughter rages in thunder
brazen

serpents coiling
from her lips fall syllables of flame
to sear

the darkness beneath
her sandaled feet

Mirrors come alive
at her passing

Hers forever
the gold
burning
of delight

Durga

Victory

Black

Black lava over rock
as chaotic like
dark mirrors shadows
dark negatives

In the abyss she sleeps
dreams

her hair is a black tangle
of serpents
roots
veins
arteries

She dreams volcanic conquests
darkness
pain

In her dream she dances
on an ocean of blood
tramples demons
ghosts
kingdoms
famine

dreams millennial upheavals
invisible stars

As she dances
eyes double
lens shadow

Earth cracks
heaves

The golden is ready
to be born

Kali

Queen

Green

Flowery glades forests
cool dappled shadow
the petals of vocabularies
falling
on grass

The third eye looks inward
sees

seeds forming
roots
coiling
hears
the trembling of drums
the hoofbeats of young elephants

Peacocks parade
by the river

The young moon is rising
reeds part as she passes
and calm pools quiver
awake

Joyous the trees
glimmer as mist
like smoke
vanish

And it is time
for Time
to begin

Sari

Renewal

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