

Poem by Liao Yiwu

For My Daughter

Let me sit here in this corner.
The imagined
praying cell.
With my hands handcuffed, with my hands
behind me.
Making a sign of the cross,
my hands.
For you, Miao Miao, my daughter,
a sign of the cross.

The little thing that probes and peeks,
a sign of the cross.
I eat you from the dust every day,
a sign of the cross.
The cement sunroof splits; a moon.
I see you
on that mountain, on that fog in the mountain, you in a saddle.

Translated from the Chinese by Katie Farris with Ming Di

Bios:

Liao Yiwu, born in Sichuan in 1958, became known as a poet in the 1980s, but later decided to be an underground writer. From 1990 to 1994 he was imprisoned as a result of the long poem “Massacre” he wrote in June 1989. He lives in Berlin now as a dissident writer. He was awarded the German Geschwister-Scholl-Preis in 2011 and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in 2012.

Katie Farris is an American fiction writer, poet, translator, academic and editor. She is the author of *BOYSGIRLS*, (Marick Press, 2011), a hybrid form text. She is also the co-translator of Polina Barskova's *This Lamentable City* (Tupelo Press, 2010) and Guy Jean's *If I Were Born in Prague* (Argos Books, 2011). Farris won the 2012 DJS Translation Award from Poetry East/West for her co-translations in *New Cathay: Contemporary Chinese Poetry, 1990-2012* (Tupelo Press, 2012). Her other fiction, translations, and poetry have appeared in [Virginia Quarterly Review](#), [Western Humanities Review](#), [The Literary Review](#), *Verse*, [Indiana Review](#), *Mid-American Review*, [Washington Square](#), [Hayden's Ferry Review](#), [The Brooklyn Rail](#) and other journals. Her translations have also been widely anthologized in texts such as *New European Poets* (Graywolf Press) and *Penguin Book of Classical Russian Poetry* (Penguin). With Ilya Kaminsky and Valzhyna Mort, Farris has co-edited *Gossip and Metaphysics: Prose by Russian Modernist Poets* which is forthcoming from Tupelo Press in 2015.

Ming Di is a Chinese poet and translator living in USA, author of six collections of poetry and four books of translation. She is editor of *New Cathay: Contemporary Chinese Poetry 1990-2012* (Tupelo Press, 2013). Her own work has been translated into English (*River Merchant's Wife*, Marick Press, 2012), German (Ein Leeres Haus, DJS Chapbook, 2013), Spanish (*Luna fracturada*, Valparaiso Ediciones, 2014), and French (*Histoire de famille*, forthcoming in France 2015).