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Iris Fan Xing

south of words / 詞語的南方

you could say 在異國
母語就是那 these are yours
a frosty succulent garden 自己的房間

a shoal of cyclists 遍地草木
尚未盡觸 that chocolate ice-cream ad
at the bus stop 又怎去援引
它們的本名? one early morning

in September像話劇演員上台前
 先背繞口令 you remember
 a summer in the north寫作是否也需要儀式感
 比如先泡一杯茶？the lava plain carried you

on its broad crinkled back冬陽總是疲累
 拄杖老人 like an ancient blue whale
 sailing under the blinding sun一天過半
 尚未達穹頂but here a cat is pinned down
 on the quilt by the spring chill歩いても
 歩いてもa ball of meditation

rolling out of herself上下音和意的階梯
 以艾雪定理造不可能之詩out of this suburb
 this continent秘訣是反方向的對偶句
 結束時開始的莫比烏斯環where a cloud
 cast its shadow on the harbour大魔法師的標誌
 蜜蜂的八字舞a steamer pulled into the dock

books arrived with travellers八月這火紅的花開
 招來一樹彩虹鸚鵡worlds opened and closed
 another winter聒噪的不學舌的鸚鵡
 不知北方紅而沉鬱的another cathedral fire
 passing old Bela Vista還有木棉與蓮霧

為什麼檸檬黃時便成熟？careless, tired
 of its future為什麼甜菜根也會流血？
 如何從水中撿回那把匕首？you thought
 what language如何從亂麻中挑出那根銀針？
 還有一些別的不言自明does it speak now?
 when you left比如彩虹的近
 實為逐漸消失的遠you also left behind
 lychee longan星球的慢
 則是概念不同的時間and wampee

look at that ten foot tree而詩總是一瞬間的事
 比如公車上坐妳前面的女生was once a sapling
 when a fledgling is ready to take off 被暖陽梳順的棕髮間
 幾枚發夾上細碎的金光she should also know how to preen

the music will never be lost 又比如在黃昏的鄉間路上
透過飛馳的車窗 if you know how to listen
sit under a jacaranda 瞥見一匹桉樹下的馬
豐滿垂墜的腹部 when it's blooming
and let it play out loud 懷著一輪橘紅的太陽

Iris Fan Xing

Iris Fan Xing graduated from the University of Western Australia with a PhD in comparative literature and creative writing. She has published two bilingual books of poetry: *Lost in the Afternoon* (2009) and *South of Words* (2018). Fan was awarded first prize in the Poetry Section of the Hong Kong City Literary Awards in 2011. Her poems and translations can be found in *Wings, Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, *Fleurs des Lettres*, *Voice & Verse*, *Poetry Monthly*, *Chinese Western Poetry*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, and *Westerly*.